TUESDAY
February 13, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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Vol. 55 • No. 37

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SHORT CIRCUIT SUSPECTED

2 killed in blast at Kochi firecracker storage unit

SOUTH » PAGE 7

FARMERS' PROTEST

Haryana govt. tightens security

NEWS » PAGE 10

EXTENDING SERVICES

RuPay, UPI rolled out in Mauritius, Sri Lanka

BUSINESS » PAGE 14

POLITICS OF TODAY

Gandhi's Ram is not in the Ram mandir

Mahatma didn't want religion to be politicised

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

RAJKOT TEST

Padikkal in squad for injured Rahul

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

'Metro link to KIA will be completed by June 2026'

BENGALURU
Work on Bengaluru metro rail project Phase 2A - from Central Silk Board to Krishnarajapura and Phase-2B Krishnarajapura to Kempegowda International Airpor, is expected to be completed by June 2026, said Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot. » PAGE 3

'Bengaluru may soon get a U.S. Consulate'

BENGALURU
Minister Priyank M. Kharge said Bengaluru might soon get a US Consulate, and it would help the huge population of students, tech workers, and business visitors going to U.S. regularly with visa services and other formalities. » PAGE 3

7 Indians who faced death row in Qatar return home

Indian officials escort former Navy personnel to New Delhi by passenger flight; eighth person also released, but awaits clearance; Prime Minister Modi to travel to Qatar tomorrow after his UAE visit

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Further talks: Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said the government will work with the Qatar government for the return of the eighth person to India. ANI

Eight Indian Navy veterans who had been in Qatari custody since August 30, 2022 were released on Sunday in Doha. Indian officials escorted seven of the eight former death row prisoners to New Delhi by a passenger flight during the early hours of Monday.

The development was followed by the announcement that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Qatar on Wednesday afternoon on his way back home from the United Arab Emirates where he will pay a two-day visit during February 13-14.

"We are happy to have seven of those Indian nationals back. The eighth Indian has also been released and we continue to work with the Qatar government to see how quickly his return to India would be possible," said Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

The details of the case in which the men were arrested were not shared with the media by either side while the Indian officials maintained that the case was "sensitive". The men were given the death penalty by a lower court in Qatar on October 26, 2023. Subsequently, a court of appeals in Doha struck down the death penalty on December 28.

Diplomatic issue

The case of the eight Indian Navy veterans kept India-Qatar relation on tenterhooks as the matter became an issue of diplomatic tug of war and their cause of the arrest was never publicised. The men had earlier appealed against the death sentence of a lower court in Doha that was subsequently commuted to a sentence of varying periods for the eight individuals.

Appreciating the decision of the Qatari legal authorities to release the Indians, Mr. Kwatra said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi "personally supervised all developments".

Earlier, there were expectations that the eight men would be freed ahead of Ramzan or Id. However, the announcement has come a day prior to Mr. Modi's UAE visit.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

T.N. Governor Ravi refuses to deliver customary address

Pon Vasanth B.A
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi on Monday triggered a fresh row in the ongoing rift between him and the State government by refusing to read out the customary inaugural address of the Legislative Assembly for 2024 and at one point walked out of the House.

Mr. Ravi announced his decision after reading the first paragraph of the address prepared by the government that wished "happiness, prosperity and well-being" in the new year and quoted a couplet from *Tirukkural*.

Later in the day, the Raj Bhavan, in a release, said the Governor "with due regard to the constitutional proprieties expressed his inability to read the address as it contained numerous passages with misleading claims and facts and reading them would have amounted to Governor's address becoming a constitutional travesty".

Governor R.N. Ravi arriving at the State Assembly. R. RAGU

After Mr. Ravi tersely ended his speech by citing reasons to justify his stand, Speaker M. Appavu read the prepared address in Tamil in entirety in Governor's presence.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

'Guarantee schemes have brought 5 cr. out of poverty'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 10-day session of the State legislature began on Monday with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's address to the joint session in which he said that 1.2 crore families are coming out of poverty to enter the middle class category owing to the implementation of five guarantee schemes of the State government.

"It is a global record that more than five crore people of the State will be promoted to middle class status by implementation of the five guarantee schemes," he said.

However, the BJP and JD (S) accused Congress government of making the Governor lie about its schemes and programmes in his speech. It was also trying to take credit for the Central schemes.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 4

NDA govt. wins Bihar trust vote; Opposition walks out

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Power point: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar being greeted by his deputies Vijay Kumar Sinha and Samrat Choudhary after the NDA government won the trust vote in the Assembly on Monday. PTI

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar won the floor test in the Bihar Assembly on Monday with the support of 129 MLAs. Three legislators of the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) voted in favour of the government amid a walkout by all non-NDA MLAs. The government needed the support of at least 122 MLAs to win the majority test in the the 243-member Assembly.

Ahead of the trust vote, Bihar Assembly Speaker and RJD leader Awadh Bihari Choudhary, who had earlier refused to resign, was removed with 125 MLAs voting in favour of the motion and 112 opposing it. Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari of the JD (U) then chaired the House.

After the House passed the resolution for the removal of the Speaker, Mr. Kumar moved the motion seeking trust vote for the new NDA government he had formed with the BJP on January 28. The motion was passed 129-0 through voice vote after the Opposition walked out from the House.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
TEJASHWI SLAMS NITISH
» PAGE 11

Sharif, Bilawal start coalition talks in Pak.

Reuters
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's two largest political parties were on Monday wrangling over who will be the Prime Minister after an inconclusive poll last week forced them to join forces and try to form a coalition government. Independent candidates backed by Imran Khan formed the largest group of 93 members in parliament.

Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) opened formal talks to form a coalition government, with a statement from the PML-N saying the meeting was "constructive".

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 13

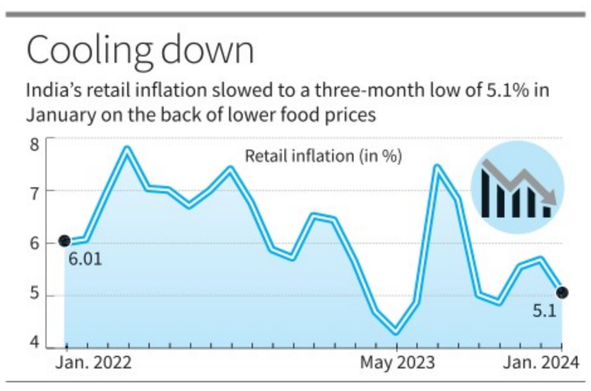
Retail inflation eased to a 3-month low of 5.1% in Jan.; food prices sticky

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation eased to a three-month low of 5.1% in January from 5.7% a month earlier, with food price rise cooling a bit to 8.3% compared with 9.5% in December 2023.

January's headline inflation pace is slightly higher than the 5% average projected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last week for the current final quarter of 2023-24.

Any interest rate cut hopes will have to wait till at least August if not longer, as the Central bank expects inflation to average 5% in the April to June quarter as well, before it hits its stated inflation target of 4% in the next quarter.



While overall inflation faced by urban consumers dropped to 4.92% from 5.5% a month ago, food inflation remained sharp at 9%, sliding a tad from 10.4% in December. By contrast, rural consumers faced food inflation of 7.91% in January, down from 9% in December, but their overall price rise pace was higher than their urban counterparts at 5.34%.

On a month-on-month basis, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) dropped 0.11% while the Consumer Food Price Index fell 0.73%. A year ago, in January 2023, CPI inflation stood at 6.52%, while food price inflation stood at 6%.

Among food items, vegetables inflation remained above 27%, just slightly below the 27.6% recorded in December.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

There have been standout displays by quite a few players: Kanitkar

Head coach of the India U-19 team which lost in the final of the World Cup believes that a couple of them can make it to the senior level

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- Captain Saharan, who plays for Punjab, ended the tournament as the highest run-getter with 397 runs
- No. 3 batter Musheer was the team's most consistent performer with the bat and ended with 360 runs
- Sachin revelled in the role of a finisher, and left-arm spinner Pandey snared 18 wickets

Press Trust of India
BENONI

India U-19 head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar is confident that at least a couple of players from the 2024 batch, that ensured a fifth consecutive final appearance for the record five-time champions, will go on to play for the senior team.

Although five-time champion India lost the final to Australia by 79 runs, players like skipper Uday Saharan, Musheer Khan, Saumy Pandey and Sachin Dhas were impressive throughout the tournament.

"Definitely (the future of India is very bright). As a bowling side and as a batting side, there have been stand out performances by quite a few players.

"They have shown maturity in tough situations and that bodes well for Indian cricket," Kanitkar said at the post-match press conference on Sunday.

Saharan, who plays for Punjab, ended the tournament as the highest run-getter with 397 runs.

His stature grew as the tournament progressed. He scored a century against Nepal before playing a match-winning 81 in the semifinal against South Africa.

Number three batter Musheer, the younger brother of prolific Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan, was the team's most consistent performer with the bat and ended with 360 runs.

The two other stand-out players were Sachin, who revelled in the role of a finisher, and left-arm spinner Pandey, who snared 18 wickets.

Sachin showed temperament, a pre-requisite for the highest level.

The Indian team has always been an age-group powerhouse and the U-19 World Cup has presented stars like Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammed Kaif, Suresh Raina, Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja, K.L. Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal to name a few.

"Every time time there are a couple of guys who step up either in the IPL or the Indian team. I'm sure there will be a couple, but there is great competition back home," Kanitkar added.

Squad members Arshin Kulkarni and Avanish Rao went into the U-19 World Cup having already secured IPL contracts.

Kanitkar feels playing in the U-19 World Cup provides the players with an insight into how playing at the senior level is.

"For the players great journey, everything is highlighted, these performances matter, they are under the scanner. They get used to these situations. The know what expect and are prepared when they play higher cricket," said the 49-year-old head coach.

Safety worries for balconies ahead of the Paris Olympic Games

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Real estate experts in Paris have warned about the danger of people cramming on to balconies around the City to catch a glimpse of the Olympics in July and August.

The National Real Estate Federation (FNAIM) has alerted local authorities to the risk of collapses and accidents unless balconies that are often designed for two or three people are checked beforehand for their structural soundness.

The issue is set to be particularly pressing for residential blocs that overlook the river Seine, which athletes will sail down during a spectacular opening ceremony being planned by organisers on July 26.

"We need to be absolutely sure that the balconies can take the weight and that handrails are well sealed in to avoid any sort of incident," Olivier Princivalle, head, FNAIM in the Paris region, said.

Rare but sometimes deadly

Accidents involving balconies are a rare but sometimes deadly occurence in France, with two people left seriously injured in the southeast of Paris in May last year when their fifth-floor balcony gave way. Four people died in the central City of Angers in 2016 when a balcony collapsed during a party.

The Paris Olympics from July 26 to August 11, followed by the Paralympics from August 28 to September 8, are set to take place at locations across the City of Light where many buildings are hundreds of years old.

The issue of balcony safety underlines the immense organisational complexity faced by local authorities as they prepare the first Games in Paris in 100 years.

The opening ceremony – the first time a summer Olympics has begun outside of a stadium – represents a huge challenge for French police who have been asked to secure a 6km stretch of the river that will be used during the parade.

The Paris police department said that checking balconies did not fall under its responsibilities, but it was working with the industry and its partners to address the issue.

Under French law, building owners or managers have responsibility for checking their structures, but "something can slip through the cracks", a French source with knowledge of the preparations said on condition of anonymity.

Advance warnings about security and transport restrictions during the Games have led many Parisians to plan holidays during the event, sometimes in order to rent out their homes for high prices to foreign visitors.

"Don't leave this summer, don't leave! That would be a mistake," Mayor Anne Hidalgo urged the City's inhabitants on Sunday as she inaugurated the only new permanent Olympics sports arena to be built in inner Paris. "It's going to be incredible."

What's the next step for Qatar's Asian Cup star Akram Afif?

Associated Press
DOHA

AP

With his flowing curls and thrilling attacking play, it was no surprise that Akram Afif was likened to Liverpool star Mo Salah at the Asian Cup.

With eight goals, including a hat-trick in the 3-1 win over Jordan in the final, the Qatar forward was the leading scorer and most valuable player as his team won back-to-back titles.

But once the celebrations are over, Afif will return to Al Sadd in Qatar, rather than a team from one of Europe's top leagues.

Europe beckons?

In reality, he is a long way off the quality of Salah – one of the world's top players. But based on his performances at the Asian Cup, it is hard to imagine Afif couldn't make a career for himself outside of his homeland, even if not at one of Europe's leading clubs.

Is it simply the case that in an age when scouting networks have never been more extensive, Afif has slipped through the net? Not quite.

After all, he was a youth player with Villarreal at the start of his career and had spells in Spain and Belgium before returning to his homeland.

That move doesn't seem to have stopped him from developing his game.

He outperformed the likes of Tottenham's Son Heung-min and PSG forward Lee Kang-in at the Asian Cup, and, unsurprisingly, the question of whether he would look to try again in Europe was a consistent theme during Qatar's run to the title.

"It's not me who has to decide, other parties have to decide," Afif said after the final.

"There are so many factors. I'd love to become a professional (in Europe). If it's meant to be, it's meant to be." The 27-year-old Afif was part of Qatar's Aspire Academy, which develops athletes. He joined Villarreal in 2016 and had loan spells with Sporting Gijon in Spain and Eupen in Belgium.

He returned to his homeland to Al Sadd in 2018 and the following year won the Asian Cup with Qatar, providing 10 assists, a tournament record.

Those performances didn't pave the way for a high profile move and he was part of Qatar's disappointing performance at the 2022 World Cup as the host nation was eliminated after three-straight losses in the group stage.

As a whole the Asian Cup showcased the talent that lies outside of elite club football in Europe. Iraq's Aymen Hussein was the second highest scorer.

Of the two finalists, only one player was based in Europe – Jordan's Mousa Tamari, who plays for Montpellier in France.

It points to the possibility that there is talent in parts of Asia that remains largely untapped in terms of scouting from Europe.

Hookah bars exploiting loophole to avoid GST and 'sin tax': Health experts

Strategy employed by bars involves presenting hookah as component of food and beverages, thereby subjecting it only to a 5% GST rate, says official

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Following the recent ban, hookah bars in Karnataka have come under scrutiny for evading GST and 'sin tax'. Public health advocates said hookah bars have been exploiting a loophole in the GST system to avoid the prescribed 28% GST rate and a 72% cess, known as a "sin tax", by serving hookah as part of their food and beverage offerings. This controversial practice has raised significant concerns among regulatory authorities and public health advocates.

While the Shisha Cafes and Restaurants' Association has approached the court claiming that the ban has resulted in employment loss, public health advocates said their licences are for running restaurants and not hookah bars. Hence, there is no question of employment loss.

Public health advocates say that the licences are for running restaurants and not hookah bars. FILE PHOTO

U.S. Vishal Rao, member of the State government's High Power Committee on Tobacco Control, said the strategy employed by hookah bars involves presenting hookah as a component of food and beverages, thereby subjecting it only to a 5% GST rate.

"Proponents of this approach argue that hookah can be classified as an "article for human consumption", allowing it to fall under the lower tax bracket. However, this argument is contentious, as hookah is not a traditional food item and is widely acknowledged to pose significant health risks, including potential harm to respiratory and cardiovascular systems," Dr. Rao told *The Hindu*.

"Moreover, it has been observed that hookah bars may be neglecting the display of health warnings while serving hookah, further exacerbating concerns about their compliance with public health and safety regulations. The absence of prominent health advisories raises serious questions about the establishments' commitment to safeguarding the well-being of their patrons and the general public," he said.

Dr. Rao said the implications of this practice extend beyond potential tax evasion, touching upon broader issues of public health, consumer protection, and regulatory compliance.

Legal business, says association

However, Mohammed Danish, president of the Shisha Cafes and Restaurants' Association, claimed their business is legal and legitimate.

"Apart from purchasing tax, sales tax and several other licence fees, we pay GST ranging between ₹15,000 to ₹20,000 to the government monthly," he said.

"Hookah smoking could be compared to smoking cigarettes, and the High Court had earlier ruled that a trade licence was sufficient to run a hookah bar, and if a dedicated smoking area is provided within a restaurant, then there were no legal issues running the business," he explained.

He said the Association had on February 9 approached the court challenging the State government's order banning the use, sale, or service of smoking hookah in Karnataka. "We are planning to file another blanket petition on Tuesday," he said.

Cubbon Park Walkers' Association and several others staged a protest at the park opposing the project on Sunday.

HC annexe: Govt. scouting for alternative sites

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After facing severe backlash from citizens over the plan to construct a 10-storeyed annexe to the High Court on Cubbon Park premises, the Public Works Department and Horticulture Department are now reportedly scouting for alternative locations.

Sources in the Horticulture Department, under whose purview Cubbon Park comes, the site inside the park may not be feasible for the construction of the annexe following the protests.

"As the site is not feasible for that building, we are on the lookout for alternate sites near the park. It will take a few days to find an alternative site and communicate it to the court," the source said.

The State government recently revived the 10-storey building project inside Cubbon Park to accommodate an annexe to the High Court at the site of the old Election Commission building. The same project, when it was proposed in 2019 (as a 7-storey building), had faced severe opposition and was thus dropped back then.

After the news about the revival of the project broke, a citizen organisation, Heritage Beku, started a petition, #NoHighRiseCubbon, demanding that the construction project be stopped. The petition received over 11,000 signatures.

On Sunday, many regular visitors to the park, along with the Heritage Beku and Cubbon Park Walkers' Association staged a protest at the park opposing the project. They raised concerns about the annexe causing harm to the ecosystem of Cubbon Park while also increasing pedestrian and vehicular traffic inside the premium lung space of the city.

Bengaluru gears up to participate in world's biggest annual bird counting exercise

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

As the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), the annual bird counting event organised by Cornell University and the Audubon Society in the USA, is around the corner, bird watchers and nature enthusiasts in the city are gearing up to be a part of it.

Being held from February 16 to 19, the event is being coordinated in India by Bengaluru-based Bird Count India, an umbrella group comprising birding, nature and conservation organisations across India.

"The response from Bengaluru has been very good," says Deepa Mohan, one of the district coordinators for the event. In 2023, the city saw the participation of more than 300 people who uploaded around 1,400 lists and documented around 200 bird species.

Over one lakh birdwatchers globally participate in the annual GBBC. In India, more than a thousand birdwatchers are expected to come together for this year's event. Participants are encouraged to list all bird species seen at a particular location over 15 minutes or more at any time during the four days and upload the list to the bird recording platform eBird, which makes checklist creation easier.

A Brown Shrike spotted during the previous edition of Great Backyard Bird Count. GARIMA BHATIA

This can be repeated as often as possible. During GBBC, a lot of local birdwatching walks and talks are planned across the country for the public to join in. Ms. Mohan notes, "The event has had an unexpected benefit. A few years ago, we had difficulty finding people to conduct bird walks. But now, because of GBBC, we are finding new people coming forward and taking the initiative to conduct walks." In 2023, India secured the third position globally for the number of reported species. Among the most frequently observed birds in India were the Himalayan Bulbul in the Himalayas, House Crow in both the north and the south, Red-vented Bulbul in the eastern and central regions, Feral Pigeon in the west, and Plume-toed Swift in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

GBBC, which was launched in 1998, became a global event in 2013. Bengaluru has seen participants ever since its commencement, says Ms. Mohan. "Initially, it took a little while to pick up. Over the years response has been better. The base of Bird Count India being Bengaluru has helped. We are at the nucleus of this. Now the word has been spreading all over India," she says.

People from 33 states and Union territories will take part in this year's event. Along with GBBC, campuses across India will also take part in the sister event Campus Bird Count, aimed at monitoring bird populations in educational and institutional campuses which are increasingly becoming vital habitats for wildlife.

KSRTC, BMTC win awards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KSRTC won two SKOCH national awards, recognising its efforts in the areas of labour welfare initiatives and the Shakti scheme.

At an event held in New Delhi, Y.K. Prakash, Deputy Chief Accounts Officer of KSRTC, received the awards from Sameer Kochhar, Chairman, and Gursharan, Vice-Chairman of the Skoch Group.

BMTC received the award for its effort to improve passenger safety during COVID-19. Sunita J., PRO, received the award on behalf of the corporation in New Delhi.

Two-wheeler rider attacks constable, arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Wilson Garden police arrested a two-wheeler rider who assaulted a traffic police official when he tried to enforce traffic norms on Monday. The accused has been identified as Syed Sai, 28, a resident of BTM Layout.

When Syed was riding his two-wheeler at the 10th Cross junction of Dr. Marigowda Road, constable Siddarameshwara Kaujalagi tried to take his photo as he was riding without a helmet. He allegedly objected to the policeman taking his photo and got into a fight with him.

The accused allegedly snatched the mobile phone of Mr. Kaujalagi, abused him verbally, and even bit the contable's hand. The constable called for backup and the accused was arrested.

BBMP gets HC notice over roadside LED display boards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered the issue of notice to the State government and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on a PIL petition seeking restriction on the installation of electronic display boards and not to allow highly illuminated electronic displays with LED displays on major roads across the city.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and Justice T.G. Shivashankare Gowda passed the order on the petition filed by Deeksha N. Amruthesh, a city-based advocate.

Motion pictures

It has been pointed out in the petition that motion pictures were being displayed on many such LED electronic display boards even though norms do not allow the display of motion pictures and installation of LED display boards. Many highly illuminated LED display boards were installed even on ground level or levels that affect the eyesight, contrary to the norms, the petitioner has stated.

Besides affecting eyesight, such highly illuminated display boards have become hazardous for the drivers of motor vehicles, says the petition, while pointing out that the BBMP, despite multiple representations, has not acted against such highly illuminated LED display boards.

The petitioner has also pointed out that the high level of brightness used for displaying advertisements during the day is used even during the night, and this is a hazard for both motorists and others.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LIYA Belliappa W/o Ranveer Rajan Sabhani R/o #D801, Sattva Gold Summit, Hennur, Baglur Main Road, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name from Liya Belliappa to Liya Belliappa Sabhani vide affidavit dated 09-02-2024 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I, S.VEDH Vijeeth S/O S.S.Saai Ananth & DoB 03.9.2018 residing at C303, Master Royal Meenakshi Apts, Bannerghatta Mn Rd, Bengaluru–76, have changed my name to S.Vedh Vijay, vide affidavit dated 08.2.2024 at Bengaluru.

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DOCUMENT LOST

I SHOBARANI R/o No. 12, Kalkere Jigani, anekal taluk do hereby state that I have lost my Original Site Register Copy Katha No. 5/1, at kalkere gate on 05/01/2024. I have raised a complaint with Bhannerughatta Police Station obtain Lost Report No. 0924744/2024 dated 09/02/2024. I submit that, what is stated above is true to best of my knowledge and belief vide affaidavit dated 09.02.2024 sworn before notary Kantharaju S

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL JUDGE, FAMILY COURT BENGALURU M. C. No. 7708 / 2022

BETWEEN : SMT. JYOTHI . T @ LAKSHMI ...Petitioner

AND: SRI. RAJASHEKAR M ... Respondent

NOTICE / SUMMONS TO THE RESPODENT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To: SRI. RAJASHEKAR M, S/o Jambulingam, aged about years, R/at No.28, 10th Cross, 5th Main, Krishnappa Block, Ganganagar, R T Nagar, Bengaluru-560032. Also at: No.1173/4, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, Subramanya Nagar, Near New Canara Bank, Bengaluru-560010

Whereas the Petitioner has preferred this petition Under Section 13 (1) (I)(i-a) of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 against the Respondent seeking for dissolving the marriage of the Petitioner with the Respondent by a decree of Divorce and other reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court on 21-03-2024 at about 11.00 A.M in person or through you Advocate / Pleader to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 01-02-2024.

By order of the Court,
Senior Sheristeder, Family Court

Advocate for Plaintiff
TAHURA ANZAR, Advocate
No.281, 17th F Main, 3rd Cross, 5th Block, KHB Colony, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. COMML/MYS/14/2024
Dated : 06-02-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the supply of following item.

Name of the Work : Tender invited for selection of halt agent at Haranahalli & Kenchanala Halt stations situated between Birur & Talguppa section and Chikkandavadi Halt station situated between Chikjajur & Chitradurga section of Mysuru division for a period of five years.

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 18-03-2024

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/683/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 Mysuru

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my clients **Sri B.K. Praveen**, S/o Late L. Keshavaiah, Aged about 52, residing at No 6/1, 4th Main, 1st Cross, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru - 560 018, and (2) Sri Nagaraj C S/o late Chikka Narasappa, Aged about 63 years, r/at No 117, S.N Residency, Sapthagirinagar, Hosakerahalli, Bengaluru-560 085 are intending to purchase all that piece and parcel of Western portion of residential immovable property bearing Site No 41 (Forty One), 2nd D Main Road, Nagendra Block, Bengaluru previously Gerehalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru BBMP Ward No 162, measuring East to West 25.5 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 765 feet which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as schedule property, together with the building of 4 square RCC standing thereon from Smt C. Veena, W/o Sri Yogeshwara M, Aged about 49 years, r/at No 237, 7th Cross Road, Parimala Nagara, Kanteerava Studio, Nandini Layout, Benglauru-560 096

Any person/s asserting any kind of right, title and interest or claims of any sort towards the sale transactions may file their objections or claims with documentary proof thereof with the undersigned within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of this paper publication to complete the sale transaction without being liable for any claims put forth thereof.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Western portion of residential immovable property bearing Site No 41 (Forty One), 2nd D Main Road, Nagendra Block, Bengaluru previously Gerehalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru BBMP Ward No 162, measuring East to West 25.5 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 765 feet together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the **East by** : Property of N. Pradeep and previously 'B' schedule allotted to B. Narayanaswamy, **West by:** Others property, **North by:** Road, and **South by:** 5 feet common passage and thereafter property of B Rajan and B Kumar

Address of Service: **H. MANJUNATH**, Advocate.
No 1028/A, Ground Floor, 15th Main Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru-50.
(M) 9886312354, Date:12-02-2024

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD CHATRA.
(districtboardchatra@gmail.com)

Expression of Interest (very short)

EOI No.:- EOI-57/2023-24

The **District Engineer, District Board, Chatra** invites proposals thereinafter referred as bid(s) from eligible bidders for entering Into a rate contracts for the supply and installation of Equipment Appliances/Accessories etc. in chatra lok sabha as per details hereunder.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of Work	Supply installation, Testing & Commissioning (SITC) for sanitary Napking Making Machine at various self-Help group (SHGs) Anganwadies in chatra parliamentary constancy
2.	Estimated BOQ Amount	Rs. 27500000.00 (two crore seventy five lakh only)
3.	Completion Period of work	04 months
4.	Tender fee	Rs. 10000.00
5.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 550000.00
6.	Date of publication of Tender on Website	17.02.2024 Time: 11:00AM
7.	Start Date/time for Online Submission of bid	19.02.2024 Time: 11:00AM
8.	Last date of submission of Bid online/Time for receipt of bids	26.02.2024 Time: 17:00PM
9.	Technical Bid Opening Date and Time	28.02.2024 Time: 02:00PM
10.	Place of Opening Bid	O/o the District Board Chatra
11.	Name & Address of inviting EOI Officer	Suresh Ram, District Engineer District Board chatra.
12.	Contact No. of Inviting EOI Officer	87091-84201

Note:
1. The specified dates and time may change due to declaration of holidays or any other unforeseen circumstances. The same shall be informed through web portal and when required.
2. The detailed tender notice terms and conditions can be obtained from the website **https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in** & copies of technical bid and financial bid can be downloaded there from
3. No hardcopy/Physical copy is required to be submitted for tender opening/Evaluation. However ZP Chatra/Department may ask original documents for verification before award of contract.
4. Tender Fee and EMD will be received through online mode only. Bidders can use Internet Banking facility for faster processing of tender fee and EMD. Alternatively, Bidders can use NEFT/RTGS Challan generated for the tender from www.jharkhand tenders.gove.in portal
5. Refund will only be issued to the originated bank account use for the payment of Tender Fee and EMD. So, Bidders are advised NOT to close Bank Account used for online payment/ (NEFT/RTGS) of tender fee and EMD.
6. L-1 Bidder online EMD submitted amount will be refunded in the same bank account through which online tender fee and EMD fee payment has been done after AOC process.
7. Companies registered under Jharkhand MSME/MSME under Gov. of India for said work are exempted for EMD Submission.

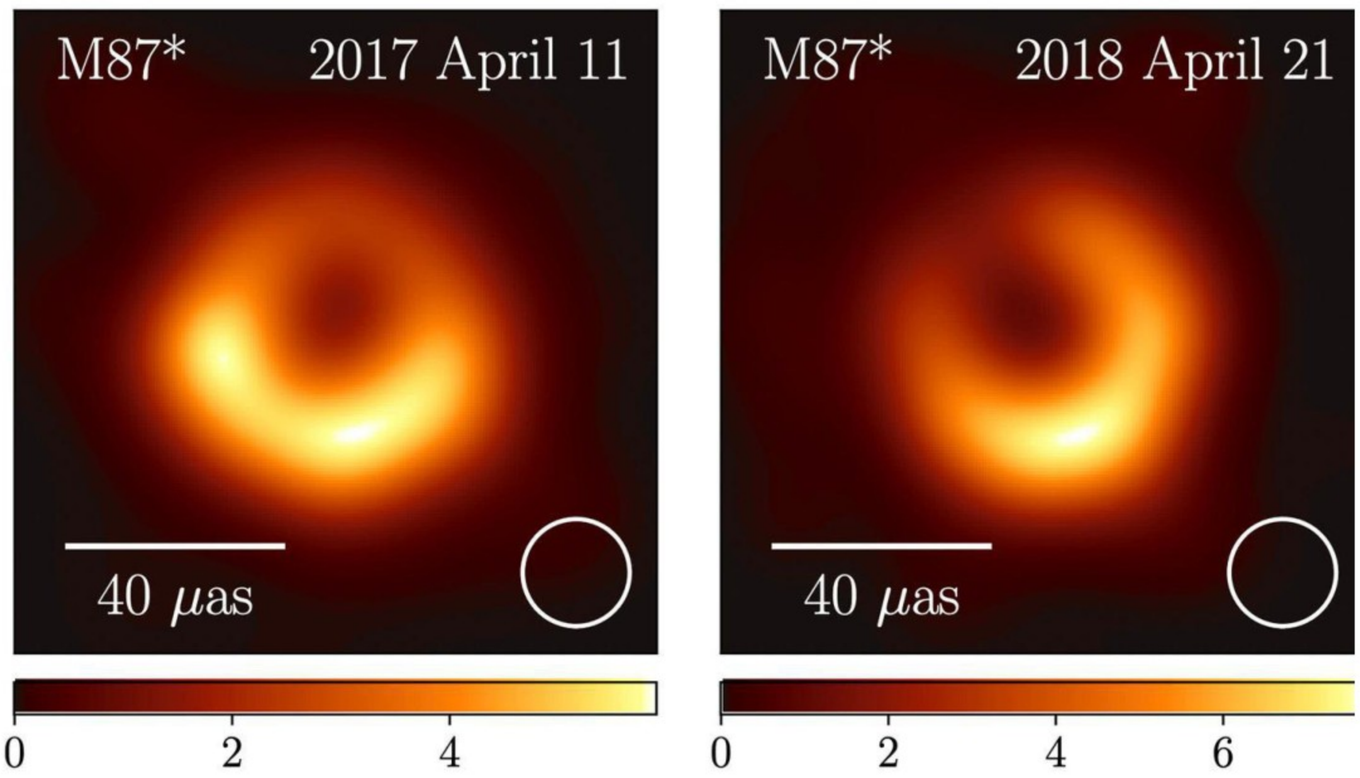
District Engineer
District Board Chatra

PR 318669 District(23-24).D

Earth-wide telescope confirms black hole's shadow is 'real'

The Event Horizon Telescope is a global network of radio telescopes that work together. In 2019, it produced the first image of a black hole, the one at the centre of the M87 galaxy. The network has confirmed what it observed and shared evidence of movement in the black hole's neighbourhood

Tejasri Gururaj



The images of the black hole in the M87 galaxy captured by the Event Horizon Telescope in 2017 (left) and 2018. The scale shows the brightness temperature in billions of kelvin. A&A 681, A79 (2024)

Scientists have unveiled new details of a colossal black hole 53 million lightyears away first photographed by the earth-wide Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) in 2017. The feat provided the first visual evidence that black holes exist, confirming a fundamental prediction of general relativity.

In a new paper published on January 18, EHT scientists have reported capturing details at the level of the behemoth's event horizon – the boundary beyond which light from the other side can't reach an observer – showcasing the formation of a distinct ring around it.

The EHT's previous run had revealed the black hole's 'shadow', a result of the event horizon's gravitational effects and a signature of its presence. The picture also helped constrain the black hole's mass and find that its size and shape align with the predictions of the general theory of relativity. The image was hailed at the time as a matter of "astonishment and wonder" for revealing "a part of the universe that was off limits".

The new data, obtained after improving the telescope's coverage and resolution, reiterated the shadow's size and shape.

"The primary finding is the confirmation of the black hole 'shadow'," Venkatessh Ramakrishnan, a postdoctoral researcher at the Finnish Centre for Astronomy with the European Southern Observatory, wrote in an email to *The Hindu*. "So this shows us as a first step that we are not biased towards making the black hole appear."

Dr. Ramakrishnan has been part of the EHT collaboration since 2017.

Many telescopes as one

The EHT is not a single telescope but a worldwide network of radio telescopes that work together to study a common object in space. They benefit from a technique called very-long baseline interferometry, where the data each telescope collects about the object is correlated with data from the others using extremely precise clocks.

In this setup, the maximum distance between the telescopes defines the network's resolution.

In 2017, the EHT reported detecting a bright, asymmetric ring of light consistent with the presence of a supermassive black hole. Independent analyses of EHT data also supported the ring's presence.

Based on these observations, scientists improved the EHT by increasing its data-recording rate, its ability to track spatial information, and by adding the Greenland Telescope to the array. The last one "improved the resolution of the EHT in the north-south direction," Dr. Ramakrishnan said.

Piecing the data together

In the new campaign, the EHT had nine stations gathering data across six observation days in April 2018, in four frequencies.

Then the scientists correlated the datasets with each other to increase the signal-to-noise ratio. This task and subsequent processing happened at centres in Germany and the U.S.

When comparing the 2017 observations with the new results, they observed significant changes in the closure phase – a measure of the relationship between three telescopes in an array.

Specifically, they found that the way telescopes worked together during the 2018 observations differed from that during the 2017 observations. In this difference, scientists can track shifts in the configuration or structure of the black hole.

The team further used general relativistic magnetohydrodynamic (GRMHD) simulations to create models of the M87 black hole. These models incorporate the way the black hole's gravity influences spacetime around it using Einstein's theory of general relativity. By comparing the simulated black hole with the actual one, scientists gained valuable insights into the intricate dynamics near the event horizon, such as an effect called lensing.

Gravitational lensing

The findings confirmed the presence of an asymmetric ring structure approximately 42 microarcseconds wide. This is like observing a grain of sand from 25 km away.

They also revealed its diameter hadn't changed much between observations in 2017 and 2018 – meaning the black hole's gravity bent light consistently over time to form the observed ring.

This is in line with a prediction from the general theory of relativity that light around a black hole is strongly lensed. Objects with a lot of mass bend spacetime more around them. When light travels in this region, its path is bent in the same way a magnifying glass does. Images carried by the light thus appear to be larger than they really are, and this phenomenon is called lensing.

> The EHT image helped constrain the black hole's mass and determined that its size and shape align with the predictions of the general theory of relativity. The image was hailed for revealing a part of the universe that was considered off limits

This is also why, as the team found, the ring's southwest corner appears brighter than other parts. The black hole is rotating, dragging the spacetime around it along the direction of its rotation and rendering more light in some areas.

In technical parlance, the observations matched predictions for a shadow formed by lensed emission around a Kerr black hole (i.e. a rotating black hole) with a mass of around 6.5 billion times that of the Sun.

The M87 galaxy is also associated with a prominent jet of high-energy particles extending from the black hole into space. Scientists believe the jet is connected to the black hole's accretion disk, a belt-like structure of matter spiralling into the black hole.

Scientists observed that parts of the accretion disk and the jet appeared to be shifted by about 30 degrees between 2017 and 2018 – meaning these structures had changed their position or orientation over time.

"The 30-degree change can be attributed to the spin of the black hole," Dr. Ramakrishnan said. "Now this can't be firmly established yet from two images taken two years apart, but such an expectation was already established in a paper published a few years ago."

This shift is involved in a complex interplay between the accretion disk and the formation of the jet. For example, models like the GRMHD suggest the observed shift could correspond to variations in the magnetic field structure. This in turn can render observable changes in the radiation emitted by matter in the disc.

By studying these subtle changes, scientists gain valuable insights into the hidden physics that controls the relationship between the accretion disk, the jet, and the magnetic environment around the black hole.

Room for more

Running the EHT to photograph black holes millions of lightyears away is a time-consuming task requiring meticulous observations.

The new results have reaffirmed the features of the black hole reported in 2019, including a very stable ring-formation process and other physical characteristics. The findings also were consistent across two observation periods and multiple frequencies, speaking to their reliability.

Examining how we measure the ring's diameter shows that our observational techniques are continually improving. Image-based techniques to study objects in space tend to underestimate diameters compared to direct modelling methods. And the EHT's finer measurement of the ring's diameter suggests this gap between the two techniques is closing. Future work could further reconcile the discrepancy and the EHT's overall performance.

Dr. Ramakrishnan also said the telescope collaboration is planning "a so-called 'movie project' in 2026, when we will track the black hole over a month or two to see the brightness changes along the black hole".

(Tejasri Gururaj is a freelance science writer and journalist.)

The LHC at CERN near Geneva, Switzerland. REUTERS

Scientists plan to build even larger atom-smasher by 2040

Associated Press

Scientists at the world's largest atom smasher have expressed confidence about moving forward with a multibillion-euro project to build a larger and more powerful particle collider that could help unlock more mysteries of the universe.

Leaders of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, or CERN, said planning is on track for its envisioned Future Circular Collider, which is estimated to cost 15 billion Swiss francs ($17.2 billion) and will probably start operating in a first phase by 2040.

But nothing is certain yet, aside from the interest from mostly European and Western countries that bankroll CERN, which is home to the Large Hadron Collider.

That project is perhaps best known for helping confirm the subatomic Higgs boson in 2012 after a decades-long quest for what was described as "the missing cornerstone of physics."

The aim is to boost energy levels of the particle collisions to 100 TeV, or 100 trillion electron volts, about eight times more powerful than the Large Hadron Collider's 13 TeV

"The Future Circular Collider is a possible facility. I'm saying 'possible' because we are today at the level of feasibility study. It's not yet an approved project," said Fabiola Gianotti, the CERN director-general.

She said review committees had not turned up any "technical show-stoppers" for the project so far.

She touted the proposed collider as "a wonderful instrument to improve our understanding of fundamental physics" and a driver of innovation in areas like cryogenics, superconducting magnets, vacuum technologies and detector-instrumentation technologies that could offer socioeconomic benefits for society.

However, the science that the future collider could generate remains largely unknown.

"It's true that at the moment we do not have a clear theoretical guidance on what we should look for," Gianotti said.

The laboratory that already houses what CERN leaders call the world's biggest machine uses a network of magnets to accelerate particles through a 27-kilometre underground loop along the French-Swiss border and slam them together, capturing and interpreting the results of the collisions to help explain how fundamental physics works.

A briefing last week on the new collider included some proposed changes to the original plan announced in 2019. Among them: the loop will be 91 kilometres instead of the 100-kilometre circuit first envisioned.

But they still aim to boost energy levels of the particle collisions to 100 TeV, or 100 trillion electron volts, about eight times more powerful than the Large Hadron Collider's 13 TeV.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

V886 Centauri: a star unlike any other

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

Scientists believe the star V886 Centauri is composed mainly of carbon and oxygen, has a hydrogen atmosphere, and a dense crystal core. And given the core's probable size, on February 13, 2004, the Harvard–Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) declared it the universe's largest _____. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

Researchers at CfA conferred a nickname to the core of V886 Centauri drawn from a song by The Beatles. What is the nickname? The song is from the album 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band'.

QUESTION 3

V886 Centauri is a pulsating X star. There are many subtypes of such stars. V886 Centauri for example is of type Y. The primary component of X is electron degenerate matter. Y is distinguished by light from it appearing to pulsate with a period between half a minute and 25 minutes. Name X and Y.

QUESTION 4

The bodies of stars can oscillate in different ways. Name the branch of science that studies these oscillations. Based on such studies, astronomers reported in 2004 that around 90% of the mass of V886 Centauri may have crystallised, meaning the crystal component weighed at least 5,100 billion billion billion kg.

QUESTION 5

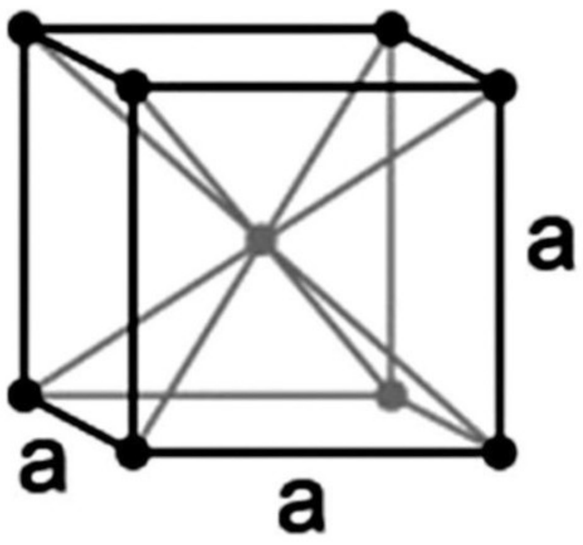
While V886 Centauri may be the largest _____ in the universe (see Q1), what is its largest counterpart (so far) on the earth named? It was discovered in South Africa on January 26, 1905.

Answers to February 8 quiz:

1. Crew of the Skylab 4 mission – **Ans: Gerald Carr, Edward Gibson, William Pogue**
2. Skylab 4 mission was first to record this with a space-borne camera – **Ans: Solar flare**
3. How the press mischaracterised the incident for which Skylab 4 became famous – **Ans: Strike**
4. At least one astronaut onboard this facility would have to be a veteran – **Ans: ISS**
5. Skylab 4 mission record broken by Salyut 6 EO-1 – **Ans: Longest human spaceflight**

Visual: **Pogue Seiko**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan



Visual: The internal structure of V886 Centauri has been designated K, depicted here. This refers to one of three possible cubic structures the repeating unit of a crystal can have. Name K.
DANIEL MAYER, DRBOB (CC BY-SA 3.0)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Parents of six minors fined for causing road accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Parents of six minors who illegally drove vehicles and caused accidents were fined ₹25,000 each. All the accidents were reported in Kamakshipalya Traffic Police Station limits in 2022-23, and none of them were fatal. The parents appeared before the court and were levied the penalty for allowing minors to drive their vehicles.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, FEB. 13	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:25
RISE 09:21	SET 21:53
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:25
RISE 10:03	SET 22:49
THURSDAY, FEB. 15	
RISE 06:42	SET 18:25
RISE 10:47	SET 23:47

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	22
Mysuru	33	19
Bengaluru	32	17

Bengaluru Today
32°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Namma Metro link to KIA will be completed by June 2026: Gehlot

The Governor says that a feasibility report is being prepared for construction of a tunnel, which is intended to reduce traffic congestion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot emphasised the development of infrastructure in Bengaluru and Tier II cities in the State. Work on Bengaluru metro rail project Phase 2A – from Central Silk Board to Krishnarajapura (19.75 km) and Phase-2B Krishnarajapura to Kempegowda International Airport – is in progress, and is expected to be completed by June 2026.

In his address to the joint session of both the Houses of the State legislature on February 12, the Governor said, "Bengaluru metro Phase 2, Reach 5 new line from Ragigudda to Central Silk Board stretches 19.15 km, out of which 3.3 km with 16 stations would be constructed in double decker model. At present, 98% progress has been achieved and the stretch is scheduled for commissioning by July 2024." Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project has been taken up in collaboration with the State Government and Indian Railways.

A file photo of Namma Metro. The Governor informed the legislature that work on Namma Metro Phase 2A is in progress.

Civil work of Baiyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara (25 km) corridor is in progress. The tender for civil work of Heelalige - Rajanukunte (46.24 km) corridor has been finalised. The work will begin soon, the Governor said.

A feasibility report is being prepared for construction of a tunnel, which is intended to reduce traffic congestion in Bengaluru.

Upcoming airports
Construction of airports in Hassan and Raichur would be completed within the stipulated time. Shivamogga airport began operations in 2023. Vijayapura airport would be completed and made operational in 2024.

Mr. Gehlot said Cauvery Water Supply Phase-5, consisting of supply of 775 MLD additional drinking water to 110 village areas included in the BBMP, is intended to be commissioned in March 2024.

Indira Canteen 2 scheme has been formulated with a view to eliminate the hunger of students, labourers, and working class people. In Phase 2, he said, 188 new canteens with food items will be launched in new towns and local bodies where no canteens had been constructed. Construction has already commenced.

New tourism policy
Mr. Gehlot said the Department of Tourism has formulated a blueprint to implement schemes under a new policy. The tourism policy and agenda will soon be announced, including effective measures to promote educational trips by school children to zoos, forest tours, and adventure tourism.

Priyank Kharge, IT and BT Minister, with delegates of the U.S Trade Mission in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengaluru may soon get a U.S. Consulate: Priyank Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for IT and BT Priyank M. Kharge said on Monday that Bengaluru might soon get a US Consulate, and it would help the huge population of students, technology workers, and business visitors going to the U.S. regularly with visa services and other formalities. He was speaking to delegates of the US Trade Mission that has been visiting several tier 1 and tier 2 cities in Karnataka and South India here.

Sharath Bache Gowda, Chairman, KEONICS, said, "We will extend our full support to the the U.S. administration for starting a consulate in Bengaluru. It will help the IT and ITES industries, techies, and students in Karnataka, who now have to travel to Chennai and Hyderabad for their visa applications.'

Representatives of some 15 reputed schools from the U.S. are also part of the trade mission, in addition to senior representatives from George Washington University, University of Texas-San Antonio, Arizona State University and University of Arkansas. ''The trade mission also seeks to connect U.S. education institutions with Indian higher education institutions and students to advance mutually beneficial collaboration," Kharge said.

The trade mission would also explore multiple avenues of cooperation between the U.S. and India in advancing technology innovation in manufacturing and other allied sectors by forging long-term partnerships between American and Indian enterprises, according to a statement released by state IT/BT ministry.

The trade mission would also tour Mangaluru and Manipal between February 14 and 15, 2024, meeting students in Kochi from February 16 to 17, and conclude in Coimbatore on February 20.

INBRIEF

Cultural team of Acharya - Utkarsh wins theatre fest

The cultural team of Acharya - Utkarsh emerged as the overall champions at the State-level theatre fest, Rangasourabha-24. The event was held between February 1 and February 10 at the Ravindra Kalakshetra. According to a release, Acharya clinched the overall winner trophy along with bagging several individual awards across different categories. The notable awards secured by the team are: best play, best direction, best properties, and Janapada vrundagayana.

Biker killed in road accident at Yeshwanthpur

A biker was killed when a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation bus rammed into his vehicle in Yeshwanthpur on Monday. The deceased, Rajendra, 50, was working as an accountant at a private firm in Nelamangala and was a resident of Nagasandra.The accident happened near the Yeshwanthpur Metro Station. Yeshwanthpur Traffic police seized the KSRTC bus and arrested the driver.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated February 13, we have an interview with Dr. Swami Subramaniam, CEO of Bengaluru-based Ignite Life Science Foundation, who spoke about the need to fund quality research, the importance of cross-border collaboration of scientists and Ignite's role in facilitating them.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (February 13, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- Decoding India's economic realities **bit.ly/ndaupagovts**
- Earth-wide telescope confirms black hole shadow is 'real' **bit.ly/blackholeshadow**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of people SpiceJet airline plans to lay off

1,000 The airline has around 9,000 employees and is looking at reducing the strength by 10-15%, an official said, adding that layoffs are necessary to reduce costs and annual savings could be up to ₹100 crore. PTI

The primary schools in Gujarat with just one teacher

1,606 "The State government had said in March 2022 that nearly 700 schools were functioning with just one teacher. Today, that number stands at 1,606.," Congress MLA Shailesh Parmar said. PTI

Palestinian minors killed due to Israel's war in Gaza

12,300 Minors made up about 47% of the total number of 28,176 Palestinians killed so far, the Health Ministry said on Monday. About 8,400 women were also among those killed. AP

The decline in India's vegetable oil imports in January

28 in percentage. The country's vegetable oil imports declined to 12 lakh tonnes in January from the year-ago period. The SEA said prices of edible oils may go up this year due to lower production, global economic issues and supply constraints. PTI

The death toll due to a landslide in the Philippines

68 The landslide buried three buses and a jeepney waiting for employees of a gold mining firm and 55 nearby houses. Rain has pounded parts of Mindanao, triggering dozens of landslides and floods. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Decoding India's economic realities-II

The Finance Minister has claimed that 1.4 crore youth have been trained under the 'Skill India Mission'. However, data shows that these skilled youth are not gainfully employed. Such excess supply of skilled workers in the economy is working as a dampener on wage and earnings growth

ECONOMIC NOTES

Prasenjit Bose
Indranil Chowdhury
Samiran Sengupta
Soumyadeep Biswas

This is the second of a two-part series on the Union Budgets under the UPA and NDA governments.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) regime has done little to address the major supply side factors driving food inflation, beyond imposing ad hoc export bans. While cash transfer schemes like PM-Kisan or the distribution of free foodgrains to poorer households can provide much needed income support and relief, they can neither improve agricultural productivity nor modernise storage and marketing of food items like vegetables, pulses and cereals, whose prices are driving food inflation today. The only method conceived by the NDA to address these issues was to facilitate a wholesale corporate takeover of India's food and agricultural economy by enacting three farm laws in September 2020, which had to be eventually rescinded following a year-long protest by north Indian farmers. Since then, the NDA-II government has remained as clueless as the UPA (United Progressive Alliance)-II was, in dealing with food inflation and agriculture.

The second problem with UPA's growth story was that while exports grew rapidly, imports grew even faster, partly due to rising global crude prices, which worsened the current account balance and increased external vulnerability. During the NDA regime, both export and import growth declined, which impacted economic growth adversely but improved the external trade balance. Further, during the NDA decade, net FDI inflows increased as a share of GDP but remittance inflows, which remained significantly higher than net FDI inflows, declined compared to the UPA decade. The end-result has been mixed.

The fall in India's foreign exchange reserves during NDA-I could be reversed during NDA-II, but the rupee has continued to depreciate vis-a-vis the dollar. The rupee-dollar exchange rate, which fell from ₹43 to ₹60 per dollar during the UPA rule has fallen further to ₹83 during NDA's tenure. In the context of the post-pandemic surge in global inflation last year, the rupee depreciation has only imported the inflationary trend into the domestic economy.

The problem of NPAs

The third problem with UPA's higher growth and private investment phase was that it led to rising big ticket corporate defaults, initially concealed through debt restructuring, which ultimately left a huge pile of legacy Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the banking system. The Modi government is claiming credit for restoring the health of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) by reducing the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) stock significantly. The fact remains that while cumulative NPA reduction under the NDA rule through all recovery channels, including the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was around ₹10.8 lakh crore (till March 2023), NPA write-offs have amounted to over ₹14.8 lakh crore in the same period (Table 1).

The PSBs, which accounted for over ₹10.65 lakh crore of these NPA write offs had to absorb substantial losses because of NPA provisioning, making net losses between 2017-18 and 2019-20. Simultaneously, since 2017-18 massive doses of capital was infused into PSBs and financial institutions like the EXIM Bank, the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL), in order to bail them out. As disclosed in the Receipt Budgets, the Centre's total debt burden on account of these recapitalisation bonds have increased to ₹2.90 lakh crore by 2023-24, and their annual interest expense of over ₹19,000 crore is being met through the central government's revenue expenditure since 2019-20. Bank recapitalisation under the UPA rule, which was of a much smaller magnitude, was audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), covering the period between 2008-09 to 2016-17. However, bank recapitalisation executed under the NDA rule has not been audited by the CAG so far. Such an audit is necessary to evaluate the massive NPA write offs by the PSBs and conclude whether private sector debt defaults have been subsidised through the public exchequer.

Income and employment

The efficacy of Union Budgets needs to be judged in terms of their impact on the lives of ordinary people. The Finance Minister has claimed in the Budget speech that under NDA rule "people are living better and earning better, with even greater aspirations for the future. Average real income of the people has increased by fifty per cent." However, how true is this claim? Official data shows that real per capita income in India, estimated by the inflation-adjusted Net National Income (NNI), registered a growth of 50.3% during the ten years of UPA rule (Table 2). During NDA's ten year rule, real per capita income grew by 43.6%, reflecting a slowdown in inflation adjusted income growth across India.

UPA vs NDA: macroeconomic indicators

The efficacy of Union Budgets need to be judged in terms of their impact on the lives of ordinary people. These tables look at the average income and employment status of the average Indian citizen

Table 1: Macroeconomic Indicators

	UPA-I	UPA-II	NDA-I	NDA-II
	2004-05 to 2008-09	2009-10 to 2013-14	2014-15 to 2018-19	2019-20 to 2023-24
Banking Sector				
Bank Credit Growth Rate % (Annual Average)	27.2	16.7	10.3	10.3
Aggregate Bank Deposit Growth Rate % (Annual Average)	20.6	15.0	10.3	9.8
Gross NPA of Scheduled Commercial Banks (₹Crore) (End of Period) #	68328	264381	936474	571546
Total NPA Recovery of Scheduled Commercial Banks (₹Crore) #	139451	324191	598981	479881
Total NPA Write-Offs of Scheduled Commercial Banks (₹Crore) #	8500	55002	639980	842414
External Sector				
Net Exports of Goods & Services (Exports less Imports) % of GDP (Annual Average)	-3.4	-5.2	-2.8	-2.2
Real Export Growth % (Annual Average)	18.9	8.9	3.5	6.4
Real Import Growth % (Annual Average)	21.7	6.4	5.1	7.5
Net FDI Inflows % of GDP (Annual Average)**	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3
Inward Remittances % of GDP (Annual Average)	3.3	3.5	2.9	3.1
Forex & Exchange Rate				
Foreign Exchange Reserves % of GDP (End of Period)##	23.3	16.3	15.1	17.4
Rupee Dollar Exchange Rate (in ₹) (End of Period)	50.9	60.1	69.2	83.0

**CPI-IW till 2008-09, CPI-Combined for Subsequent Periods # GNPA and NPA movement estimates are till March 2023.*
***4-Yr Average for NDA II (2019-20 to 2023-24) ## Forex Data till January 2024*

Table 2: Per Capita Income & Growth

	UPA I & II		% Growth	NDA I & II		% Growth
	2004-05	2013-14	10 Year Period	2014-15	2023-24	10 Year Period
Nominal Per Capita Income (NNI) (in ₹)	25987	79118	204.5	86647	185854	114.5
Real Per Capita Income (NNI) (in ₹)	45611	68572	50.3	72805	104550	43.6

Table 3: Employment, Unemployment & Earnings

	NSS 68th Round - 2011-12	PLFS 2017-18	PLFS 2022-23	Variation	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(B-A)	(C-B)
	Unemployment Rates (%)				
Unemployment Rate % (CWS)	3.7	8.9	5.1	5.2	-3.8
Unemployment Rate % (Usual Status, ps + ss)	2.3	6.1	3.2	3.8	-2.9
Unemployment Rate % among Youth (15-29 Yrs) (Usual Status, ps + ss) - Rural	4.9	16.6	8	11.7	-8.6
Unemployment Rate % among Youth (15-29 Yrs) (Usual Status, ps + ss) - Urban	9.2	20.6	15.7	11.4	-4.9
Educated Unemployment Rate % (Secondary and Above, 15 Yrs+) (Usual Status, ps + ss) - Rural	4.7	11.5	6.6	6.8	-4.9
Educated Unemployment Rate % (Secondary and Above, 15 Yrs+) (Usual Status, ps + ss) - Urban	5.1	11.3	8.4	6.2	-2.9
	Status in Employment (Usual Status, ps + ss)				
Share (%) of Self-Employed in Usually Employed - Rural	55.9	57.8	63	1.9	5.2
Share (%) of Self-Employed in Usually Employed - Urban	42	38.3	39.6	-3.7	1.3
Share (%) of Regular Wage/Salaried in Usually Employed - Rural	8.8	13.1	12.2	4.3	-0.9
Share (%) of Regular Wage/Salaried in Usually Employed - Urban	43.4	47	48	3.6	1
Share (%) of Casual Labour in Usually Employed - Rural	35.3	29.1	24.8	-6.2	-4.3
Share (%) of Casual Labour in Usually Employed - Urban	14.6	14.7	12.4	0.1	-2.3
	Informal Sector (Usual Status, ps + ss) (Rural + Urban)				
Share (%) of Workers engaged in Agriculture	48.9	44.1	45.8	-4.8	1.7
Share (%) of Workers in Usual Status (ps + ss) employed in Informal (P&P) Non-Agricultural Enterprises	37	38.2	40.3	1.2	2.1
Share (%) of Regular Wage/Salaried Employees without Social Security Benefit in Non-agriculture sector	55.4	49.6	53.9	-5.8	4.3
	Average Monthly Earnings (Rural + Urban) (in ₹)				
		Apr-Jun, 2018	Apr-Jun, 2023	Growth (%)	
Average Monthly Wage Earnings from Casual Labour work other than public work*	n.a.	5741	8547	48.9	
Average Monthly Earnings of Regular Wage/ Salaried Employees	n.a.	16847	20039	18.9	
Average Monthly Earnings from Self-Employment	n.a.	12304	13347	8.5	

**Calculated from data on average earnings per day and actual days worked in a week*

Source: Union Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

The NDA government often cites the annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) findings to claim a reduction in the unemployment rate between 2017-18 and 2022-23. However, comparable estimates from the NSS 68th round on Employment and Unemployment Situation in India, shows that unemployment rates, estimated by both current weekly status and adjusted usual status, grew very sharply between 2011-12 to 2017-18 (See Table 3). Moreover, while the unemployment rates declined between 2017-18 and 2022-23, the open unemployment rates of 2022-2023 were still higher, not only vis-a-vis the NSS 68th round of 2011-12, but compared to all the eight previous NSS rounds conducted since 1972-73. The open unemployment rates have never been so high in India in the last 50 years. Unemployment was particularly high among the urban youth aged 15 to 29 years and among those with an educational level of secondary and above. Within those employed, the share of casual workers show a declining trend both in rural and urban areas, while the proportion of self-employed have increased progressively. In 2022-23, self-employed workers and helpers in own account enterprises made up 63% of the rural labour force and almost 40% of the urban labour force. The share of regular wage/salaried workers has declined in rural areas and increased in urban areas between 2017-18 and 2022-23. However, the share of those without any social security benefit has increased within the salaried workers category.

Even as agriculture's share in Gross Value Added (GVA) has declined to 14.4% in 2023-24, there has been an increase in the share of workers engaged in agriculture between 2017-18 and 2022-23. The share of workers engaged in informal non-agricultural enterprises has also increased since 2011-12. These trends in employment status from the PLFS data point towards growing informalisation of the labour force, contrary to official claims of increased formalisation.

Skilled but not employed

The Finance Minister had claimed in the Budget speech that the government's "Skill India Mission" has trained 1.4 crore youth and 54 lakh youth have been up-skilled and reskilled. However, the dashboard in the official site of the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana shows that out of 1.10 crore certified candidates, only 24.51 lakh, that is around 22%, have been "Reported Placed". Such excess supply of skilled workers in the economy and growing informalisation is working as a dampener on wage and earnings growth. PLFS data further show that the average earnings of casual labour in non-public work to be ₹8,547 in 2022-23, that of self-employed workers to be ₹13,347 and that of regular wage/salaried workers to be ₹20,039. While casual labourers' average earnings has grown by around 49% in five years since 2017-18, and regular wage/salaried workers by 19%, average earnings of self-employed workers rose by 8.5% only in five years. With annual retail inflation rate averaging 6% during NDA-II's tenure, less than 2% annual growth in average earnings for the self-employed clearly indicate a decline in their real earnings. 57% of India's labour force engaged in self-employment, are certainly not "living better and earning better", as the Finance Minister would want us to believe. It is their hopes and aspirations that stand betrayed.

Prasenjit Bose is an economist and activist; Indranil Chowdhury teaches economics at PGDAV college, DU; Samiran Sengupta and Soumyadeep Biswas are data analysts at CPERD Pvt. Ltd

INBRIEF

Actor Zaid Khan offers aid to Hema Choudhary

Actor Zaid Khan visited the residence of veteran Kannada actor Hema Choudhary on Monday to enquire about her health and presented a cheque for ₹5 lakh for her medical treatment. Mr. Khan, son of Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, was accompanied by former MLC Sarovar Srinivas.

Wales keen to engage with Karnataka in aerospace and automotive sectors

In a bid to increase its industry presence in Karnataka, Wales has expressed interest in engaging in semiconductor, aerospace, and automotive sectors among others. Leading the Wales Delegation, David T.C. Davies, Secretary of State for Wales, United Kingdom, said on Monday during the Round Table Meeting with Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil that Wales and Karnataka have potential opportunities to promote bilateral business,

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Patil claimed that there are potential opportunities in defence, machine tools, clean energy, and manufacturing sectors also. He also informed that the State would bring in a clean energy policy. Appraising the delegation about the proposed global standard KHIR-City on about 2,000 acres, the Minister told the Wales delegation to consider investing in the project.

13 more KFD cases reported

On Monday, 13 KFD cases were reported in Karnataka. Of them, seven were reported in Chikkamagaluru district and six in Shivamogga district. With that, the number of cases since January 1 increased to 89. So far, 63 people have been discharged from hospitals and 24 are under treatment. One each from Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru died due to the infection.

Five guarantees are helping 1.2 crore families come out of poverty: Governor

Over 5 crore in State will be promoted to middle-class status owing to implementation of these schemes, says Gehlot

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot said 1.2 crore families are rising above the poverty line and entering middle class owing to implementation of 'five guarantee schemes' by the Congress government in the State.

In his address to the joint session of both the Houses of the State legislature on Monday, the Governor said: "It is a global record that more than five crore people of the State will be promoted to middle-class status by implementation of five guarantees – Shakti, Anna Bhagya, Griha Jyoti, Griha Lakshmi, and Yuva Nidhi – by the State government."

In the 24-page address, Mr. Gehlot largely spelt out the government's programmes, specifically the guarantee schemes. "My government has done what it has said, without compromising on the love, trust, and hopes of the people. It has brought about a wind of change in the lives of seven crore people of the State by launching a new era of happiness, peace, and contentment."

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot addressing the joint session of the State legislature at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Shakti scheme, which provided free bus travel for women, benefited 3.5 crore women of Karnataka, including gender minorities and students irrespective of caste, religion. Women passengers have made more than 150 crore trips under the scheme. Under the Anna Bhagya scheme, 5 kg foodgrain and ₹34 per kg in lieu of additional 5 kg foodgrain have been given to eligible families under DBT. From July 2023 to January 2024, ₹4,595 crore has been transferred to eligible beneficiaries," the Governor said.

Mr. Gehlot said: "Under the Gruha Jyoti scheme, free electricity has been provided to every household in the State subject to a maximum consumption limit of 200 units a month, and 1.5 crore consumers have benefited."

Under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, ₹17,500 crore has been allocated for providing ₹2,000 per month to the woman head of every eligible family. About 1.17 crore beneficiaries have registered, and ₹11,037 crore has been released to beneficiaries till January 2024 through DBT. Under Yuva Nidhi scheme, orders have been issued by the government to provide a monthly allowance of ₹3,000 to unemployed graduates and ₹1,500 to diploma holders, the Governor said.

"Economic activities are picking up due to accumulation of purchasing power among the people due to the guarantee schemes. The guarantee schemes are a model for the country. Other governments are competing to adopt these schemes," Mr. Gehlot said in his hour-long address to members.

The schemes have provided solace to people suffering from growing economic inequality. The money in the hands of the people from the schemes has given a boost to the economy, he said.

On the investment front, the State has received ₹77,000 crore in the last eight months. Apparently referring to alleged discrimination in devolution of taxes to the State by the Centre, he said: "Karnataka ranks second in GST collection in the country, but it ranks 10th in terms of receipt of tax share."

Despite the drought, Mr. Gehlot said: "There is a record level of development in the fields of road, water, education, health, agriculture, sericulture, animal husbandry, and industry. It is a record that out of the total Budget announcements, notifications have been issued and implemented in 97% of the total announcements."

Emphasising the government's efforts in reducing economic inequality, Mr Gehlot said: "Development not only means economic development, but also includes sustainable development and social harmony. The government has been following the 'Karnataka model' since it came to power and aims to further strengthen this model, and make Karnataka a unique State in the entire country."

With the Governor's address, the 10-day State Budget session has commenced.

Oppn. slams Governor's speech

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP and JD (S) have accused the Congress government in Karnataka of making Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot lie about its schemes and programmes in his speech.

"Mr. Gehlot was made to lie as the State government claimed credit for Central schemes and schemes of the previous BJP government. While the government claimed that drought relief has reached farmers, it should not be given in instalments. Though farmer suicides have increased, the government has not been transparent with the data," Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok told presspersons after the Governor's address to the legislature. The government has emptied the exchequer to fund guarantee schemes and has created economic inequality besides diverting funds from SC/ST welfare, he added.

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy said that when the government does not have money to provide drought relief to farmers, it has provided 90 persons, including 77 legislators, Cabinet rank burdening the exchequer. He also said that the government has made the Governor lie, and added that though people have given a decisive mandate, governance has not been good. "Is this how a Governor's speech is made? I am not against guarantees, but what has happened to the guarantees being implemented now." He said that there has been no reference to the Kantharaj Commission report.

BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai said: "The speech was lacklustre, disappointing, and bland."

Terming the speech as a "bundle of lies", BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said the government has been revolving around guarantees and there has been no other development works ."The government is seeped in confusion over the schemes and the Governor's speech does not provide any hope for the poor, farmers, and unemployed."

Kumaraswamy calls Preetham Gowda 'brother', but latter not ready to accept it

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

H.D. Kumaraswamy

Former Chief Minister and JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday offered an olive branch to ease the differences with the BJP in Hassan district by referring to former BJP MLA Preetham Gowda as "brother", while the latter remained tough and said becoming brothers was impossible in politics.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Kumaraswamy, who visited Channangihalli in Hassan taluk to take part in a temple programme, spoke to the media. Referring to Mr. Preetham's repeated statements that the BJP should get a chance to contest the Hassan Lok Sabha seat, Mr. Kumaraswamy said he would talk with him and settle the issue. "He is my younger brother. We will sit and settle the issues," he said. At one point, Mr. Kumaraswamy also said that if Mr. Preetham wanted to contest for the Lok Sabha seat, he would consider that as well.

However, Mr. Preetham hit back stating that in politics it was impossible to become 'brothers'. "Mr. Kumaraswamy's brother was sitting with him. He can talk to him, not me. I will go by the decisions and directions of the BJP party leaders and the high command, he said.

Responding to Mr. Kumaraswamy, Mr. Preetham said in 2023, he appealed to the voters to defeat me in the Assembly polls. "Now, he calls me brother. I don't know what he will call me in the next polls," he said. Mr. Preetham was defeated by JD(S) candidate Swaroop Prakash in the Assembly polls in 2023.

Karnataka Legislature Institute inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that discrimination based on dress by private clubs was not good. "There are several restrictions in private clubs. It is not right to discriminate based on dress code that was in the British era," he said, after inaugurating the Karnataka Legislature Institute on Balabrooie Guest House premises here.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "Several years ago, I was denied entry into a club because I was wearing *panche*. I was accompanying B.R. Patil, Kodandaramaiah, and Ugrappa for lunch." He said: "That day, I decided we should have our own club. Today, I am wearing *panche* and inaugurating the institute."

He said that a separate club for former MLAs, Ministers, Speakers, and Chairpersons was a long pending demand, and that there was opposition since Balabrooie was a heritage building. "I felt this should not come in the way of creating a club on the lines of Constitution Club. It is closer to Vidhana Soudha and Legislators' Home."

BJP members chant 'Jai Sri Ram' after Governor's address

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP members wore saffron shawls at the joint session of the State legislature on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Opposition BJP members wore saffron shawls and chanted 'Jai Sri Ram' after Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot concluded his address to both Houses of the Karnataka legislature on Monday.

RR Nagar member Munirathna was seen distributing saffron shawls to BJP legislators inside and outside the Assembly hall. After the Governor ended his speech with 'Jai Hind' and 'Jai Karnataka', BJP legislators chanted 'Jai Sri Ram' and 'Bharat mata ki jai'. The Budget session of the State legislature commenced on Monday with the address by the Governor. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will table the State Budget on Friday.

RS polls: Mahasabha calls for community representation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The All-India Veerashaiva Mahasabha urged Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to nominate a Veerashaiva-Lingayat candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls. Mahasabha president Shamanur Shivashankarappa urged the party to give the community at least one of the three seats that the Congress could win from Karnataka.

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1	RC Tender No.E1124/Implant/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- ASD & PDA Device (100) – Rs.5,725/-	13.02.2024 to 19.02.2024	14.02.2024 11.00 AM	20.02.2024 11.00 AM	20.02.2024 12.00 Noon
2	RC Tender No.E1125/ANL/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- Semi auto Analyzer (258) – Rs.5,725/-	13.02.2024 to 28.02.2024	20.02.2024 11.00 AM	29.02.2024 11.00 AM	29.02.2024 12.00 Noon
3	RC Tender No.E1126/SCOPE/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- Neuro & spine endoscope with 4K Camera, Skull Base surgery Set – Trans Nasal Trans Sphenoidal set & Spine Set tubular sequential dilator system for Posterior midline approach (1) – Rs.5,725/-	13.02.2024 to 28.02.2024	20.02.2024 12.00 Noon	29.02.2024 11.00 AM	29.02.2024 12.00 Noon
4	Tender No.E1127/MIC/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- Operating Microscope basic for Neuro surgery dept. (1) & Operating Microscope High end for Neuro Surgery Dept. (1)– Rs.5,725/-	14.02.2024 to 29.02.2024	21.02.2024 11.00 AM	01.03.2024 11.00 AM	01.03.2024 12.00 Noon
5	RC Tender No.E1128/ACL/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- Horizontal Cylindrical High pressure steam sterilizer both manual and automatic controls of different sizes – Rs.5,725/-	14.02.2024 to 29.02.2024	21.02.2024 12.00 Noon	01.03.2024 11.00 AM	01.03.2024 12.00 Noon

For details visit **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and TNMSC website **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in**
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1	RC Tender No.E1134/EYE/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- Motorized Vision Drum (5), Keratometer (5), Ultrasound Pachymeter (5) & Trail lens set with trial frame (5) – Rs.3,435/-	19.02.2024 to 06.03.2024	26.02.2024 11.00 AM	07.03.2024 11.00 AM	07.03.2024 12.00 Noon
2	RC Tender No.E1135/CEN/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- Centrifuge (106) – Rs.3,435/-	19.02.2024 to 06.03.2024	26.02.2024 11.00 AM	07.03.2024 11.00 AM	07.03.2024 12.00 Noon
3	RC Tender No.E1136/CELL/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- Fully Automated Hematology Analyzer – 3 part (156) & Fully Automated Hematology Analyzer – 5 Part (12) – Rs.5,725/-	20.02.2024 to 07.03.2024	27.02.2024 11.00 AM	08.03.2024 11.00 AM	08.03.2024 12.00 Noon
4	RC Tender No.E1137/ATP/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- Automatic Tissue Processor (8) – Rs.5,725/-	20.02.2024 to 07.03.2024	27.02.2024 11.30 AM	08.03.2024 11.00 AM	08.03.2024 12.00 Noon
5	RC Tender No.E1138/DRILL/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 07.02.2024- Power Driller and Reamers (5) – Rs.5,725/-	20.02.2024 to 07.03.2024	27.02.2024 12.00 Noon	08.03.2024 11.00 AM	08.03.2024 12.00 Noon

For details visit **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and TNMSC website **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in**
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CM condemns arrest of State farmers in M.P.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah condemned the arrest of Hubballi farmers by the Madhya Pradesh government as they were heading to a protest in Delhi.

In a statement here, he said: "I demand that the Madhya Pradesh government immediately release all the farmers from our State and allow them to participate in the protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Tuesday."

"Although it is the government of Madhya Pradesh that has made the arrests, it is clear that the criminal mind behind this act is the Central BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he alleged.

"By arresting and intimidating them, the farmers' struggle cannot be suppressed. Such repression might only lead more farmers to take to the streets, but the struggle of the sons and daughters of the soil will not cease," he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

N. VENKATARAMAN, I.R.S
Retd. Income Tax Officer
Son of Late. V. Narayana Iyer
Passed Away on 7-2-2024 at Bangalore
Date of Birth : 23-5-1929
Contact: 9845043478/ 9945012263

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Government of Karnataka
Department of Women and Child Development
OFFICE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS, DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION UNIT, KALABURAGI
1st Floor, Government Observatory Building, Opp. Chandrasekhara Patil Stadium, Kalaburagi, Email: dcpuglb@gmail.com Phone no: 08472-243219

No: DCPUK/Staff.Tender/2023-24 Date:09-02-2024

:: E-TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

E-tender is invited as per rules (Through Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000) for providing out sourced staff from the eligible agencies mentioned in the tender documents on external source basis to the District Child Protection Unit Office/Child Helpline-1098/112 and Government Child Care Units and State Women's Hostel Units under the Department of Women and Child Development for the year 2024-25. Tender Website : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
1) Date of Issue of Tender Documents and Last Date and Time for Submission Dated: **09/02/2024 to 08/03/2024 5:00 Pm,** 2) Opening Date of Technical Bid Dated: **11-03-2024, 4:00 PM**, 3) Opening Date of Financial Bid Dated: **18-03-2024, 4:00 PM**, 4) Minimum Amount: **Rs. 88,08,868/-**, 5) EMD Amount : **Rs. 1,76,177/-**, 6) Contact Details: 1st Floor, Government Observatory Building, Opp. Chandrasekhara Patil Stadium, Office of the Child Protection Officers , Kalaburagi Email: dcpuglb@gmail.com Phone no: 08472-243219

Sd/- District Child Protection Officers
District Child Protection Unit Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/806/KSMC&A/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA E-Mail-serw.elect @yahoo.in
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS ELECTRICAL CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
e-Procurement Notice NO - SERWELBBSR- 02/2023-24

1.	Name of the Work	**Shifting of lines and S/S in order to facilitate the road widening work of widen of road at Malatipatapur to Saliapatna via Charishere road in the Dist of Puri. - Rs. 260 Lakhs.**
2.	Estimated Cost	**Rs.260.00 Lakhs (Excluding GST)**
3.	Period of Completion	**180 days**
4.	**Bid Identification No.**	**SERWELBBSR - 02/2023-24**
5.	Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal.	**From Dt.16.02.2024 at 12.30 P.M. to Dt.26.02.2024 up to 500 P.M.**
6.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	**Dt. 27.02.2024 at 01.00 P.M.**
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	**To be intimated later on.**
8.	Procurement Officer / Name & address of the Officer inviting Bids.	**Superintending Engineer, R.W. Elect. Circle, BBSR MI Colony, Unit-9 (flat), BBSR-22.**

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site **www.tenderorissa.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer,
Rural Work Electrical Circle, Bhubaneswar.

O-2515: OIPR-25192/11/0003/2324

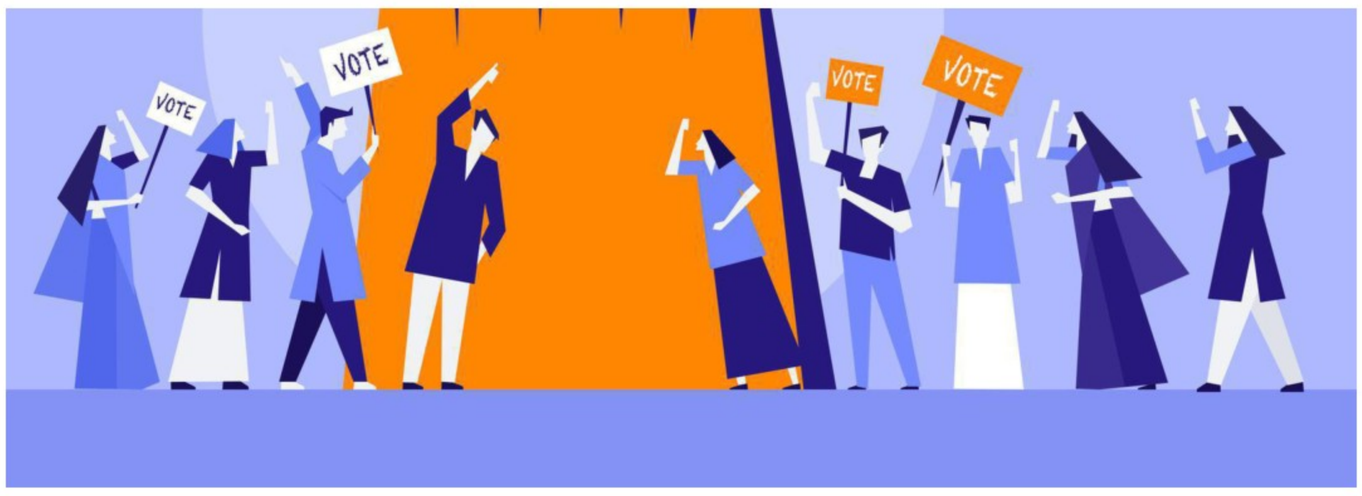
LOKINITI-CSDS

The political preferences of first-time voters in Delhi

Data suggests a significant preference for the Bharatiya Janata Party among first-time voters when it comes to running the government at the national level. The study also dissects specific issues that resonate with the younger generation

Lokniti Team

A recent study done by the Lokniti-CSDS among 1,290 first-time voters (47% young men and 53% young women) in Delhi, delves into the intricate realm of their political preferences. The study not only explores their choice of party for governance at both national and State levels but also dissects the specific issues that resonate with the younger generation. Recognising the strategic importance of engaging with this group, political parties are actively initiating efforts to reach out to millions of first-time voters. This outreach seeks not only to establish a connect but also to secure their support for the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.



On governing States and the nation

The data suggests a significant preference for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) among first-time voters when it comes to running the government at the national level. The BJP has a substantial lead with 70% support, indicating a widespread belief among first-time voters that the BJP is best suited for national governance. The Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lag significantly behind in this context (Table 1). However, when it comes to governance at the State level, particularly in Delhi, the dynamics shift. AAP secured the preference of 49% of the youth, closely followed by the BJP at 33%. Meanwhile, the Congress garnered a minimal mention, with only 3% of young voters expressing support for the party (Table 1).

Upon examining specific issues relevant to the youth, it becomes evident that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stands out as the preferred choice for addressing youth-related challenges and creating employment opportunities. In contrast, other political parties have limited support in this regard. Interestingly, a notable three in ten voters expressed that no party adequately prioritises these critical issues (Table 2). However, when it comes to providing quality education, a distinct competition emerges between the AAP and the BJP. An almost equal number of young voters perceive both parties as strong contenders in this crucial area.

On gauging young respondents' opinion on the Narendra Modi government we asked them what work done by the Modi government did they like the most. Development emerged as the most appreciated aspect, garnering 20% approval, followed by 11% acknowledging the government's efforts in protecting religious interests. Other mentions include 6% approval for maintaining law and order, 5% for initiatives to enhance women's security, and 4% each for reducing unemployment, improving education, and aiding the underprivileged (Table 3).

On the contrary the most disliked work of the Modi government reveal diverse concerns. For 17% of first time voters it was an increase in communalism. Following closely, 15% expressed discontent with the issue of price rise, while 12% were critical of the government's handling of increasing unemployment. A 3% disapproval rate is observed for multiple aspects, including a rise in corruption, the belief that the government did not work for the benefit of the poor, concerns about the education sector, and the increase in crimes against women (Table 4).

Table 1: The best party for running the country and Delhi

	Party best for.....	
	Running the government in the country	Running the government in Delhi
BJP	70	33
Congress	7	4
AAP	5	49

Note: Rest gave other responses or did not respond

Table 2: Party best for specific issues

Which party is the best..	BJP	Congress	AAP	No party
Focusing on the problems of the youth	44	13	14	26
Generating employment opportunities	45	11	10	30
Providing quality education	40	6	41	11

Note: Rest gave names of other parties

Table 3: Standout achievement of the Modi govt.

One work done by the Modi government that you liked the most	(%)
Development	20
Protect my religion/religious interests	11
Good law and order situation	6
Worked for improving women's security	5
Reduced unemployment	4
Improvement in education sector	4
Worked for the benefit of the poor	4
Improvement in health services	3
Reduced corruption	3
All other work combined	26

Note: Rest did not respond

Table 4: Most disliked work of the Modi Government

One work done by the Modi government that you disliked the most	(%)
Communalism has increased	17
Price rise	15
Increasing unemployment	12
Corruption has increased	3
Did not work for the benefit of the poor	3
Situation of education sector is not good	3
Crimes against women have increased	3
All other work combined	18

Note: Rest did not respond

With the recent inauguration of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, first-time voters were asked how they felt about the construction of the new temple. More than two thirds (67%) expressed a deep sense of pride and another one sixth (15%) indicated being somewhat proud, suggesting an overall positive mood

Table 5: Opinion on the caste Census

Should the caste census be conducted in India	(%)
Yes	48
No	46

Note: Rest did not respond

Table 6: Opinion on the construction of the Ram Temple

How proud do you feel that a Ram temple has been constructed in Ayodhya	(%)
Very proud	67
Somewhat proud	15
Not much proud	8
Not at all proud	8

Note: Rest did not respond

Table 7: Opinion on the significance of the inauguration of Ram Mandir

Opinion on the celebration plan for the inauguration of the Ram Mandir	(%)
The grand celebration for Ram Mandir was necessary	46
It was for vote bank	48

Note: Rest did not respond

Table 8: The vote choice of first-time voters

Vote Choice	(%)
BJP	65
Congress	8
AAP	7
Other parties combined	4
Did not reveal	16

On the temple inauguration

In exploring the perspectives of first-time voters on critical issues, we inquired about their opinions on the caste Census and their stance on the inauguration of the Ram Mandir.

With respect to the caste Census, the data indicates an equal divide regarding the need for conducting a caste Census in India. While 48% favoured the idea of conducting a caste Census, 46% believed it to be unnecessary (Table 5).

With the recent inauguration of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, we asked first-time voters how they felt about the construction of the new temple. More than two thirds (67%) expressed a deep sense of pride and another one sixth (15%) indicated being somewhat proud, suggesting an overall positive mood. However, there was a notable one sixth – 8% who reported not feeling much pride, and an additional 8% expressing no pride at all regarding the construction of the temple. (Table 6).

A further question was posed regarding the significance of the grand celebration, questioning whether it was truly essential or if its inauguration was strategically aligned with the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections to secure a favourable vote bank. On this matter, the younger generation expressed divergent opinions, with a nearly equal split between those viewing it essential and those asserting its connection to political motives (Table 7).

Upon examining the vote preferences of the young who are planning to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, two thirds (67%) expressed their intent to vote for the BJP. The Congress party garnered the preference of 8%, while AAP secured the support of 7%. The collective mention of all other parties amounted to 4%. Notably, 16% of respondents chose not to disclose their voting intentions. The findings of the study emphasise the continuously growing popularity of Mr. Modi, a discernible factor that significantly shapes the voters' preference in favour of the BJP.

A study by the Lokniti-CSDS research team which includes Vibha Attri, Sanjay Kumar, Suhas Palshikar, Sandeep Shastri, Jyoti Mishra and Abhinav Pankaj Borbora. This is the second of a two-part series on first-time voters in Delhi.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. R. V. Reddy wants to know the meaning of 'studied indifference'."

" 'Studied' is used here as an adjective. It means 'carefully considered, intentional, deliberate'.

What bothered me was his studied indifference to what I said.

He is a very arrogant man. What you saw yesterday was his studied humility."

"Mr. V. N. Jindal, Ganeshganj, Lucknow, wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of 'charade'."

"A charade is 'a game in which each syllable of a word or phrase is acted out by one team while the other team tries to guess the word or phrase'. When you play the game, you have to perform several acts to convey the meaning of the word or syllable. The whole thing very often looks funny and absurd. From this, we get the figurative meaning 'ridiculous pretence'.

The parties had made up their minds about their position. The negotiations were a charade.

The "ch" in 'charade' is pronounced 'sh' as in 'shall'; the first 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India', the second 'a' as in 'path'; the final 'e' is silent. The stress is on the second syllable. In American English, the second 'a' is pronounced like the 'ai' in 'paid', 'laid'."

"Miss K.S.L. Maduri, Nagappanagar, Chromepet, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'kid-glove approach'."

"A kid-glove approach is a gentle, considerate approach.

He tried the kid-glove method but it didn't work.

'Kid' had several meanings. One of them is 'a young goat'. The leather from the skin of a young goat is also called 'kid'. It is used for making gloves, shoes, etc. It is noted for its softness. So a 'kid-glove' is a soft glove. A kid-glove approach is a soft approach.

You must handle him with kid gloves.

'Kid' also means a child. This is used in informal English. In American English, it is also used as an adjective to mean 'younger'.

She is his kid sister.

'To kid' means 'to deceive, to fool in a playful way, to tease'.

She kidded him about his Hindi.

Don't kid yourself into thinking that you can pass the examination without any preparation.

'Kiddie' or 'kiddy' also means 'a small child'. The two words are used in informal English."

"Mr. R. Chandrasekhar wants to know how to use the word 'scoff'."

" 'Scoff' means 'to speak contemptuously of religion or objects of respect, to jeer or mock at something'.

He is noted for scoffing at rituals.

'Scoff' is also used as a noun.

Ignore his scoffs.

In British English, 'scoff' is also used in informal English to mean 'to eat greedily and fast'.

Who has scoffed all the food?

Someone must have scoffed the biscuits.

It is used as a noun also to mean 'food'.

I am hungry. Where is the scoff?

The 'c' in the word is pronounced 'k' and 'o' as in 'long'. 'Scoff in the sense of 'to eat greedily', 'food' is used in British English and is slang.

Published in The Hindu on January 29, 1990.

Word of the day

Quirk:
a strange attitude or habit; a narrow groove beside a beading (used as a noun)

Synonyms: crotchet, oddity, queerness

Usage: *It was a quirk of fate that brought them together.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/quirkpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kwɜːk/

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

In the interim Budget, the Finance Minister announced that Lakshadweep would get funds to improve its infrastructure. How well do you know India's major islands?

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
This island once flourished as a major port for trade in Gujarat and is now connected to the mainland via two bridges. It is among the least populated districts in India. It is known in conjunction with another district; the two together formed a Union Territory. In 2019 they were merged with a neighbouring UT.

QUESTION 2
The majority of the people on this island are Muslim. Many people here speak Malayalam with a mix of Arabic. There is a tradition of matriliny in this place. Which island is this?

QUESTION 3
This island was named after a marine surveyor and shared the name of one of the main characters of the popular sitcom *Friends*. It was renamed in 2019 after an Indian nationalist. Name it.

QUESTION 4
The Great Nicobar is the southern most part of the Nicobar islands archipelago. Two tribes inhabit this place. One of them is the Nicobarese. Name the other

QUESTION 5
This Chief Minister was an MLA of this island, which is also known as the first island district of India. Name him.

QUESTION 6
This is a barrier island. As it is located close to the equator, it is synonymous with innovation and exploration and is a launch site. Name it.

Visual question:
Identify this Railway bridge which was the longest sea bridge in India until the opening of the Bandra-Worli Sea Link in Mumbai.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the three recipients of the Bharat Ratna in 1954. **Ans: C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Sir C.V. Raman**
2. The shape of the Bharat Ratna and the two images on the medallion. **Ans: Peepul leaf with a Sun on the obverse side and the State emblem of India on the reverse**
3. The two non-Indian citizens who got the Bharat Ratna. **Ans: Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Nelson Mandela**
4. The third woman to be given the Bharat Ratna posthumously. **Ans: Aruna Asaf Ali**
5. The two awardees who went on to become the President of India. **Ans: S. Radhakrishnan and A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**
6. As of February 11, 2024, who are the four living recipients of the award. **Ans: Amartya Sen, C.N.R. Rao, Sachin Tendulkar and L.K. Advani**
Visual: Identify him. **Ans: Dhondo Keshav Karve**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Nitesh Rai| M. K. Sudhakar| Pradeep Kumar Nama| Savinder Bharat

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

‘Science researchers in India not lacking funding, but reliable fund flow’

Dr. Swami Subramaniam, CEO of Bengaluru-based Ignite Life Science Foundation, talks about the need to fund quality research, and importance of cross-border collaboration of scientists

INTERVIEW

Dr. Swami Subramaniam

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The team working on increasing nitrogen use efficiency via modulation of Phytoglobins and NOx scavenging mechanisms, a research initiative supported by Ignite LSF.

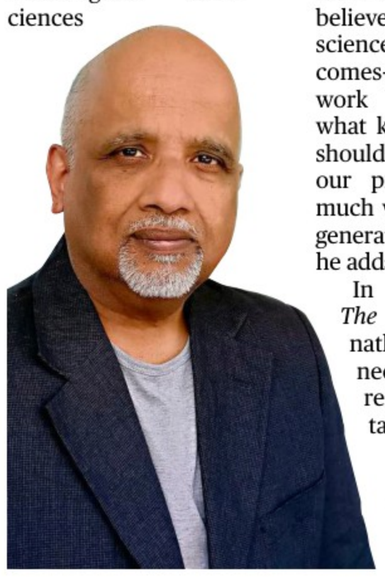
mRNA Vaccine platform applied to combat COVID-19, one of the researches supported by Ignite LSF

On February 5, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act came into effect. ANRF, which aims to be a research funding organisation and subsumed the very similar Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established in 2008, is supposed to have a corpus of ₹50,000 crores.

Despite the tall claims, reports suggest that the actual funds allocated for ANRF have been measly so far.

The inadequate and insufficient funding for science and research has been a major hindrance to the scientific and research community in India. The budget allocation to science has also remained a minuscule percentage much to the chagrin of the community.

Dr. Swami Subramaniam, CEO of Bengaluru-based Ignite Lifesciences Foundation, has a slightly different view, although he agrees that inadequate funding for science has been a critical problem in India. “Science is not even in the top 10 categories for India. There are other sectors like defence, healthcare and so on which need more attention and more money,” he says.



Dr. Swami Subramaniam, CEO of Ignite Life Science Foundation

“As long as our GDP does not match that of bigger economies like the USA or China, there is no point in saying that our allocation to science should be similar to theirs. In India, I believe, spending on science should be outcomes-driven. We should work backwards to see what kinds of science we should do depending on our priorities and how much we should spend to generate those outcomes,” he adds.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Dr. Swaminathan talks about the need to fund quality research, the importance of cross-border collaboration of scientists and Ignite’s role in facilitating them.

Can you elaborate on outcomes-driven research?

There are Indian priorities in science, especially in applied aspects of science.

For example, we have a lingering infectious disease problem which has now converted into an antimicrobial resistance problem. While this is a problem everywhere in the world, it’s much worse in India because of the nature of medical practice and the use of medicines here. It’s more of a critical threat here. Antibiotics are not being developed at all here. So that’s an area wherein India can play. We can make significant strides and we can contribute to the global efforts to combat this problem. Obvious areas like tuberculosis would be where we should invest money.

How does Ignite LSF work towards this?

Unless we invest the money in the best quality science, we’re just going to churn the ocean. That is where I think Ignite plays a role.

We are, as a funding agency, miniscule. We have done about ₹20 crores of funding over three years. So, we are not going to make a difference by saying we come with a lot of money. But what we can do is engage very closely with the scientists, whom we fund. We coach them and mentor them.

We have a slightly different selection process for the scientists whom we fund compared to national agencies like the DBT or DST. We are extremely selective of not just the scientific idea, but also about the investigator. That coupling of the right investigator with the right idea is going to generate the best outcome.

What is the state of science funding in India currently?

Most investigators are not suffering from a lack of funding but from a lack of consistent, reliable fund flow. The scientists in top research institutes like IISc have been allocated crores of rupees. But an allocation doesn’t mean that they get the money. Although they are all pretty fund-rich, they still apply to Ignite.

It is a fact that Indian scientists don’t get money on time. It is heart-wrenching to see the kind of suffering we put these people through. A lot of research staff depend only on the research project funding.

How do you assess the impact created by your funding?

We are not passive; we actively try to create impact. If we identify something that is of value, we will work with the investigator to make sure that value is realized in the fastest manner possible. For example, some of our investigators do not necessarily file an intellectual property patent. We counsel them to file it soon so that they protect their IP.

Then we put them in touch with the development folks.

Translational science is of two types. One is called pull translation, where a pharmaceutical company needs an idea, and they actively seek investigators and scientists and pull the idea into their lab.

Since we don’t have a large number of pharma companies doing drug discovery in India, we don’t have powerful pull translation. So, we need more push translation. We need our investigators to understand how drugs are developed and do some of that early de-risking and drug development work themselves.

At Ignite since many of us, including myself, have worked in industry we can give the investigators skills and knowledge they don’t have. I think DBT and DST will do well to create some kind of a program where skills in push translation are provided either through training or consulting.

How many projects have you supported so far? Have you seen a geographical pattern?

We have funded around 20 so far.

We get proposals from all across the country. But in the end invariably researchers from IISc, IITs or IISER get funded. There is no bias. It just so happens that the best proposal comes from these institutes given that they are the best research institutes in the country currently.

One limitation is that some of the money we get is from CSR and CSR money cannot be given to private universities. Therefore, we have to deny funding even for good private universities. It is a very sad thing because there are some emerging Centres of Excellence, and they need this kind of funding. And we need competition for government institutions. So, we are trying to create a pool of funding targeting centres of excellence in private universities.

Bengaluru is known as the science capital of India. Do you see the best research emerging from the city?

Not necessarily. In life science interdisciplinary research is going to be the most productive. While IISc does some interdisciplinary research, I think the IITs are a little ahead. So, I believe that the leaders are going to be from places like IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras, and IIT Bombay. Paradoxically, engineering institutes are going to produce the best life science research.

It’s a commentary on our life science research community. The nature of science has become so interdisciplinary now compared to what it was 20-30 years ago.

Our medical institutes are doing poorly in terms of research. Medical institutes must do good research because they have clinical material, patient samples and patients. A lot of hypotheses can be tested in real-life situations. So, the application also will happen faster. All of our medical colleges should be thought hotbeds of good research, but they are not, except for a few like AIIMS, JIPMER and so on. Even they are not performing to their fullest potential.

What’s the gap between the research in such premier institutes and others?

Huge. That’s mainly because we create a large community and then we push them to various corners of the country. For example, there’s an IISER in Berhampur. It’s harder to get faculty to come there. Secondly being away from the city, it takes time if you want to get some equipment or service there.

You don’t need acres of land for good institutes. You need good quality building space.

I think Indian scientists will do very well to collaborate with their counterparts elsewhere. We should have in place systems and mechanisms to promote trans-border collaboration. Automatically the science will improve.

We are working on developing a platform for scientists to collaborate seamlessly across borders. It’s in the beta phase. You can call it a ‘Slack for the scientists.’

Christ University presents a week-long sustainability week along with United Nations Academic Impact

The event kicked off with a diverse range of events and activities engaging students from various disciplines across multiple deaneries

Rohith D.S.
BENGALURU

Panel discussion on “Revolutionising Higher Education for Global Sustainability” at Christ University.

Christ (Deemed to be University) is celebrating its first Sustainability Week across all campuses from February 12 to 16. The initiative, launched in collaboration with the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), aims to equip students with the knowledge and tools to become responsible global citizens and advocates for a sustainable future.

The event kicked off with a diverse range of events and activities engaging students from various disciplines. Leading figures from various fields shared their insights and inspired students to become changemakers.

“Sustainability is not a distant role; it is a way of life that we must instil in every aspect of our lives and also into our educational journey. It is our responsibility to nurture young minds that can seamlessly blend the rhythm of the past with innovative solutions for the challenges of our future,” said Dr. Fr. Viju P.D., Pro-Vice Chancellor of Christ, during the inaugural session of the event.

Climate change

Guruprakash Sastry, Head - Climate Action Infosys Ltd, explained that humanity is responsible for this alarming rate at which environmental degradation is happening, “Just imagine Earth like your body temperature constantly being one of the half degrees up. How do you feel? So, that’s the state of our planet today. So, if you can relate to that, you can relate to what is happening in terms of our ecosystem globally.”

“We have seen the cyclones, floods, droughts, and even excessive rainfall in some of the locations where these were not commonly placed earlier. Increasing population and globalization brought significant change in our lifestyles and also in the environment,” he further added. He spoke about water pollution and how only 11 per cent of the wastewater from Industries and residences actually gets recycled. The rest 89 percent ends up in our water bodies such as lakes, rivers and oceans.

Net zero emmision

At a panel discussion on ‘Revolutionising Higher Education for Global Sustainability,’ Nirbhay Lumde, Head ESG, Sustainability and CSR, CGI, said, “To achieve net zero emission target 2070 in India, we are running short of about 50 to 60 thousand professionals, which is needed in the market to take care of net zero engagements. We need to have as many people to be in the forefront to build as many engagements and start-ups. There are plenty of opportunities, in terms of creating start-up companies that really feed the sustainable development goals.”

Dr. Leena James, Head-SDG Cell Christ, said, “The Sustainability Week is the first in its nature in collaboration with UNAI, and it is happening simultaneously on all six campuses to give exposure to our students regarding the importance of sustainability and to enhance its adoption into their daily lives.”

Varsha Madhusudan, a participant in the sustainability programme, said, “We think sustainability is an essential part of life. As we come from the psychology department, we know how people are getting affected psychologically due to unsustainable lifestyles. So, I feel like sustainability is very important, and it’s not just followed in departments or in colleges. It should be followed everywhere then only we can hope to achieve sustainability.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1974

Productivity as Mass Movement

Bangalore, Feb. 12: The importance of popularising productivity as a mass movement and as an integral part of the over-all economic policy was stressed by the speakers on the occasion of the observance of the productivity day here to-day.

The function was organised jointly by the national and the Karnataka Productivity Councils.

Mr. K. Kannan, MLC and Chairman, Programme Committee, Karnataka Productivity Council, said the productivity concept had not grown into a mass movement yet in the country and wanted the N.P.C., to spear-head the movement.

Civic Panels: Plea to Mayor

Bangalore, Feb. 12: The Leader of Opposition in the Bangalore City Corporation Council, Mr. P. Ramdev has urged the Mayor to convene a meeting of the Council to fill up the vacancies in various Standing Committees before the election of the Chairmen of those committees. In a letter to the Mayor to-day Mr. Ramdev pointed out that the full complement of seven members for each of the Standing Committees had not been elected at the Council meeting on February 8. The election of Chairmen without filling up the vacancies in the Standing Committee would be against the provisions of the Corporation Act. The letter also said that the Mayor would be held responsible for the legal implications if the election of Chairmen was done without filling up the vacancies.

It's past forward for Nakul Abhyankar

Nakul Abhyankar is busy this year as a composer with eight of his films slated for release including the recently released Kannada film, *Juni*

Melody come what may Nakul Abhyankar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Praveen Sudevan

Nakul Abhyankar's latest film as a composer, *Juni*, released on February 9. As an upcoming composer, every release excites him. But *Juni* is close to his heart. He feels it is a story that deserves to reach as many people as possible. The Kannada film by Vaibhav Mahadev depicts the journey of a person with Dissociative Identity Disorder, a mental health condition in which someone has multiple distinct identities. Nakul believes it can foster empathy and acceptance of people with mental health issues.

"The film navigates through sweet moments intertwined with the difficulties of living with multiple personalities," he says, "From a musical perspective, capturing *Juni*'s mind space with its different personalities was challenging."

Despite the challenges it throws, Nakul prefers such films – intimate, profound, and screenplay-driven dramas – to commercial potboilers. He says his other upcoming films, like *Bisi Bisi Icecream* and *Chakri*, also have exciting storylines.

"I prioritise authenticity in my music, avoiding trends and focusing on storytelling. Collaboration with directors allows me to infuse my ideas into the film's narrative, ensuring that the music enhances the storytelling experience. I resist adding unnecessary elements solely for promotion, respecting the audience's time and immersion in the story. The impact of music is subconscious yet profound, influencing the audience's emotional response. I want the audience to leave the theatre feeling good, not with a headache," he says.

Though hailing from Karnataka and singing and composing for Kannada films, Nakul does not want to be labelled a 'Kannada singer/composer'. Nine potential releases are under his name this year, including a Hindi film. He has already sung in seven different languages. He has worked with AR Rahman in several languages. He also wants to compose for Tamil and Telugu films soon.

"This was my childhood dream, and I am starting to realise it," says Nakul.

What was he up to?

Nakul's life has been steeped in music since childhood. Thanks to a singer brother and music-loving relatives, he grew up in a household filled with melodies and harmonies. During his engineering days, he found his voice through singing competitions. Winning the Kannada *Sa Ri Ga Ma Pa* and a top-nine finish in the national Hindi *Sa Ri Ga Ma Pa* competition fueled his aspirations to become a singer and composer.

Like his brother, he, too, was wary of pursuing music professionally. So, he joined Bosch. "But the calling to do music was always there," he says. Following his heart, he took a leap of faith, quitting his job to immerse himself in studying music formally at AR Rahman's KM Music Conservatory.

"Formal training can give composers a strong foundation, independence, and confidence in their craft. My education in music has empowered me to venture into various aspects of music production, from composing to programming and mixing/mastering," he says.

The learning curve may be steeper for those entering the industry without formal training, especially amidst the demands of a professional career. Prioritising learning before diving into the industry ensures a smoother transition. "But it's not a prerequisite for composing. What truly matters is connecting with the characters and conveying emotions through 12 notes."

KM Music Conservatory did not just give him a formal education in music; it opened an avenue to an experiential education from his childhood idol, AR Rahman. From 2016 till date, he has worked with Rahman on several big films, including *Sarkar*, *Ponniyin Selvan*, and *Cobra*.

Honesty and hunger

Nakul pauses to gather words, trying to describe the experience of working with the maestro. "I'll tell you what I learnt from him: honesty, hunger for knowledge, dedication, and a no-compromise attitude. These might sound like a cliché, but I see these qualities being implemented every day in his studio," he says, "Seeing him work, you realise this – whatever happens, even if you see a small ray of light that can help your vision come true, you do it, no matter how difficult."

Nakul's recent collaboration with Rahman is more interesting than usual. He worked on a song, 'Thimiri Yezhuda', for the Tamil film *Lal Salaam*, which features Rajinikanth. Rahman has used AI-generated voices of the late singers Bamba Bakya and Shahul Hameed.

The experience for Nakul was surreal. "Despite our friend's (Bamba) absence, his voice lives on in the song in a lifelike manner. It's incredibly moving to hear his voice, knowing he didn't sing it before passing. The fact that the song became a hit and earned royalties is a bittersweet comfort. The royalties will benefit Bamba's family, providing them with some income."

According to him, the process of generating Bamba's voice was straightforward. "You need to provide the AI with substantial audio data, typically an hour-long recording of Bamba's or any desired voice. During this training period, the AI learns the nuances of pronunciation, inflexion, and other subtle details of the voice. Once the AI has been trained, it can perform various tasks, whether singing a song or any other function."

The ability to recreate and manipulate vocals with near-perfect accuracy presents tantalising possibilities, from resurrecting the voices of legends to crafting virtual collaborations. Imagine an AI-powered Lata Mangeshkar singing tunes with profane lyrics, raising questions of consent, artistic integrity, and potential exploitation.

"It's essential to prevent the misuse of AI technology, as it's becoming increasingly easy for individuals to manipulate voices and create content without accountability. We need global and local regulatory bodies to establish clear policies that govern the ethical use of AI. The potential for abuse is significant without proper regulations," says Nakul.

However, because of this latest technological phenomenon, he is not too scared for the futures of him and his peers.

"Throughout history, there have been shifts in musical trends and technological advancements, from smaller orchestras to grand symphonies and analogue to digital recording methods. Each transition has sparked concerns about job security for musicians, yet innovation has prevailed. Digitisation in the 1990s, for example, didn't render musicians obsolete; it empowered composers to explore new ideas and collaborate more effectively with live musicians," says Nakul.

CITYBEATS

Desserted!

ONGOING
SAPA has introduced a range of desserts for Valentine's Day. The desserts include Meant to Bee, To the Moon and Back and Family Affair. There is also be a range of desserts for furry friends called Fur-ever and Ever.
SAPA can be contacted on 063605 71579

Flavour of the week

ONGOING
BLVD CLUB has curated a special menu for their Valentine's Day celebrations. Besides food, you can indulge in cocktails and spa offers that come with a complimentary foot or back scrub. Give in to indulgence as expert therapists massage away your stress and create a personalised pampering experience.
BLVD can be contacted on 9731101414

Fishy platter

ONGOING
United Telugu Kitchen Bengaluru (UTK) has introduced a signature Andhra dish, *avakai korameenu*. The fish is marinated in freshly ground Andhra spices and *avakai* (Andhra style mango pickle) and then grilled.
At UTK, Prestige South Forum Mall, Konanakunte Cross Metro Station

FILM REVIEW

Narrow miss at better execution

Vivek MV

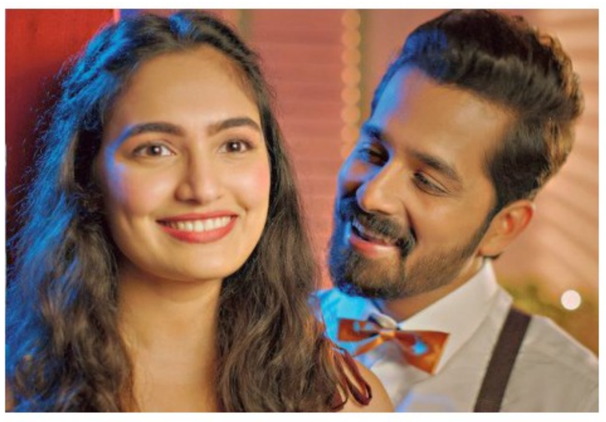
Four years ago, the Kannada romantic tragedy *Dia* catapulted actor Pruthvi Ambaar to fame. Since his big breakthrough, Pruthvi has chosen concept-based scripts over run-of-the-mill stories. While it is encouraging to see a rising actor seeking unique content, Pruthvi can go places only if his passion for quality cinema gets the support of filmmakers who convert their novel ideas into engaging movies.

If his *Sugarless* was about a young man's battle with diabetes, Pruthvi's *Doordarshan* explored the importance of television in the 1980s. In this week's release *Juni*, the actor plays chef-and-cafe owner Partha, who falls in love with Juni (Rishika Naik), a sketch artist suffering from dissociative personality disorder (commonly called multiple personality disorder). A shy and introverted Juni gets controlled by two more personalities: the adventurous Mansi and the aggressive Chaki, "who thinks and behaves like a man."

Director Vaibhav Madhav attempts a straightforward take on dissociative personality disorder, and that is what makes *Juni* different from other well-known Indian films that have dealt with this mental health condition. In a touching scene, Juni breaks down in front of Partha, stressing how her condition is not something for people to be scared of. Just like in *Dia*, Pruthvi gets a character that mostly plays second fiddle to its female counterpart, and the actor is utterly at ease as a man drawn into an unconventional relationship. He convincingly represents an ideal man who is sensitive about his girlfriend's condition. Despite slipping in some places, debutant Rishika does justice to a tricky role.

Director Vaibhav Madhav gives convincing reasons for the birth of both the personalities of Juni.

Untold story Stills from *Juni*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



However, he fails to offer them the same depth and attention he gives to writing Juni. The scenes reflecting Mansi's personality are shoddily executed; one important scene reminds us of Vikram switching between two personalities in the Tamil hit *Anniyan*.

Juni is not as big scale as S Shankar's film nor as focused as Fazil's Malayalam film *Manichitrathazhu*, and yet, it could have been a well-rounded film had it focused on its secondary characters who get prominence in the final act. The tumultuous relationship between Partha's parents is handled half-heartedly.

The film further loses its grip when it stops being a female-oriented story and turns its focus on Partha. *Juni* becomes an average commercial film that gives its hero a chance to transform himself. Had this plot turn come with adequate build-up, we could have rooted more for the protagonist.

The movie's uneven pace is another shortcoming. The movie starts off sluggishly as the director attempts to create a feel-good drama between the leads, but the drama is not meaty enough. *Juni* picks up well when the central conflict is introduced, but loses steam in the end as it turns melodramatic.

Juni joins recent Kannada films such as *Tatsama Tadbhava* and *Case of Kondana* for not fully realising its potential. These films have great moments, but they struggle to come together as a whole. Their fate is not entirely bad as they get praised in the OTT space, where people's expectations are lower. That said, those who happen to watch *Juni* on the big screen will not be entirely disappointed.

Juni is currently running in theatres

Juni (Kannada)
Director: Vaibhav Mahadev
Cast: Pruthvi Ambaar, Rishika Naik, Vinaya Prasad,
Runtime: 138 minutes
Storyline: Partha, an easy-going cafe owner, falls in love with an artist named Juni, only to discover that she has a multiple personality disorder. Will love stand the test of societal stigma?

I spy Vivek Mathew (below), from his Gaze of Silence series. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Silent chronicles of a city

Ruth Dhanaraj

There is something therapeutic about staring out a window. It is comforting and cathartic in equal measure – whether one is seated overlooking a busy street or in a train watching the world flash past. And while most of us would agree with RL Stevenson's, "each a glimpse and gone forever" state of mind, Vivek Mathew has attempted to make those moments live on with his work.

The Bengaluru-based photographer who has been capturing life as he knows it through his lens for 18 years now, says the photographs in the Gaze of Silence series, "were shot through glass in different forms and places."

"These photographs were taken at different locations such as bus stops and cafes," says Vivek, adding that some were from the interiors of Bengaluru's iconic Indian Coffee House on Church Street.

Captured over the past year, Vivek says the 24 images in this series, "have a very painterly feel". "Shot through stained glass, window panes and glass sheet, and under varied light conditions, they give out a nostalgic feel. This is especially noticeable in the images taken during the rain – they have a 'behind-the-glass' vibe to them."

Vivek who passed out of The Light and Life Academy in Ooty, covers a wide range of subjects such as architecture, nature and people, with his work. "I go with a blank mind when I step out with my camera to take pictures," he says.

Much like most artists, Vivek too, does not title his work, as he believes each viewer should see these photographs as they would a work of art. "Since each person has a different point of view, they would interpret it in their own way. Why should I force my perspective on them by naming a piece? An image that evokes happiness in one, could cause gloom in another. It is always better for viewers to relate to a work from a personal place."

The limited edition prints that are part of the Gaze of Silence series are on sale; other works by Vivek can be viewed at www.behance.net/vivekmathew.

Gaze of Silence, an exhibition by fine art photographer Vivek Mathew, will be on display at Reves Art Gallery, Jayanagar, till February 18.

INBRIEF

Greyhounds' commando electrocuted in Telangana

A commando of the Greyhounds, the anti-naxal force of the Telangana Police, died after he accidentally came in contact with a live wire, suspected to be laid by poachers to kill wild animals, during a combing operation in Nasturpalli forest area of Kataram mandal in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on shortly after Sunday night. The deceased commando was identified as A Praveen, 30, from a native of Adilabad district. He was part of a Greyhounds squad that was out in the Nasturpalli forest area on a regular combing operation, sources said.

Blast in firecracker storage unit for temple fete kills two

25 persons injured in the explosion at the storage unit set up as part of the festival at Puthiyakavu Devi Temple; the firecrackers were meant for the fireworks display scheduled on Monday evening

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Two persons were killed and over 25 others were injured in a blast that ripped through a temporary firecracker storage unit at Choorakkadu during the festival at Puthiyakavu Devi Temple in Thripunithura here on Monday.

The explosion occurred around 10.30 a.m. at a property managed by the Vadakkumpuram Karayogam at the Nadama Thekkumbhagom village.

Vishnu, 27, a native of Ulloor in Thiruvananthapuram, who was reportedly part of a team of workers engaged in storing and assembling firecrackers, succumbed to burns. Divakaran, 55, who was admitted to Government Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam, died around 7 p.m.

A vehicle damaged in the explosion at a temple firecracker storage unit in Tripunithura in Kochi. H. VIBHU

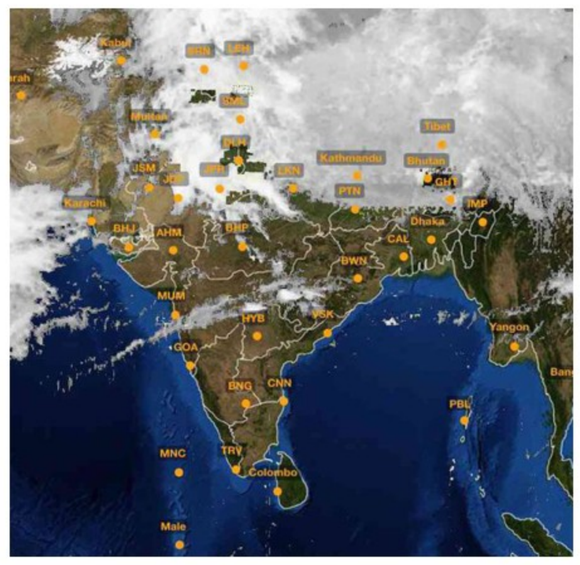
The District Medical Office said that 17 injured were admitted to various government hospitals. Seven of the injured were admitted to two private hospitals at Thripunithura. Adarsh, who supplied the firecrackers, was also critically injured.

Though the authorities have not confirmed the exact cause of the accident, the preliminary inferences by the Department of Fire and Rescue Services and the police are that a possible short circuit from a tempo traveller that was carrying raw materials for the firecrackers may have triggered the massive blast.

The Hill Palace Police booked Sajeesh Kumar, the Puthiyakavu devaswom president; Rajesh, devaswom secretary; Sathyan, treasurer; and Adarsh.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with hail/lightning likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and east Madhya Pradesh. Squally wind likely to prevail over Gulf of Mannar, Comorin area and Southeast Bay of Bengal adjoining South Andaman Sea

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.6	13.2	Kozhikode	—	35.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	29.0	16.5	Kurnool	—	36.2	20.2
Aizawl	—	25.6	11.0	Lucknow	—	26.6	11.1
Allahabad	—	25.6	10.8	Madurai	—	33.8	21.7
Bengaluru	—	32.0	16.5	Mangaluru	—	35.6	23.0
Bhopal	—	26.9	13.4	Mumbai	—	32.8	17.1
Bhubaneswar	—	32.7	18.1	Mysuru	—	33.0	17.0
Chandigarh	—	24.0	9.2	New Delhi	—	23.7	7.3
Chennai	—	30.9	22.6	Patna	—	27.5	10.7
Coimbatore	—	32.8	20.0	Port Blair	0.4	30.4	26.3
Dehradun	—	23.2	8.6	Puducherry	—	31.9	22.0
Gangtok	—	16.4	7.2	Pune	—	33.5	15.7
Goa	—	33.0	21.7	Raipur	7	30.0	18.5
Guwahati	—	29.7	11.5	Ranchi	—	28.8	14.2
Hubballi	—	35.0	18.0	Shillong	—	18.2	7.6
Hyderabad	—	32.3	20.1	Shimla	—	17.2	8.0
Imphal	—	24.7	8.6	Srinagar	—	11.3	-3.6
Jaipur	—	23.4	10.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.1	24.9
Kochi	—	31.0	24.2	Tiruchi	—	33.1	21.6
Kohima	—	16.6	7.4	Vijayawada	—	31.6	21.4
Kolkata	—	28.7	15.6	Visakhapatnam	—	30.5	21.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	25	.94	200	123	
Bengaluru	.15	.13	.20	214	104	
Chennai	.28	.23	.65	52	64	
Delhi	.32	194	.44	347	208	
Hyderabad	3	.32	.48	75	121	
Kolkata	.26	126	.36	248	170	
Lucknow	8	.77	.66	229	184	
Mumbai	—	.51	.42	219	176	
Pune	.99	131	110	95	98	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.45	.14	83	102	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Buxar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 367 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ooty, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Illegal payments to political functionaries by CMRL necessitated SFIO probe'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Illegal payments to the extent of ₹135 crore to various political functionaries of Kerala State and certain other entities, including Exalogic Solutions Pvt. Ltd., a company owned by Veena T., daughter of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, by Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) necessitated a probe by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in public interest, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) told the High Court of Karnataka on Monday.

A statement in this regard was submitted before the court during the hearing on a petition filed by Exalogic, which has questioned the legality of the initiation of a probe by the SFIO under Section 212 of the Companies Act even before the conclusion of an ongoing probe into the affairs of the company under Section 210 of the Act through the Inspectors of the Registrar of Companies (RoC). 'An offence of such scale and grave nature that directly affects public interest would definitely merit an investigation by the SFIO, which is a multidisciplinary agency," it has been contended in the statement.

Order reserved

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, who heard the arguments by senior advocate Arvind P. Datar on behalf of the Exalogic and Additional Solicitor General of India Arvind Kamath on behalf of the MCA, reserved the order on the petition.

Further, the MCA has alleged in the statement that Exalogic has "not come to the court with clean hands" and has "tried to mislead the court by making various incorrect statements." Pointing out that the enquiry against Exalogic commenced based on a complaint received in November 2020, the MCA has stated that the first notice was issued to the company way back on January 29, 2022. So far, necessary documentation sought in respect of the "purported software services rendered by Exalogic to CMRL" for receipt of ₹1.7 crore was not forthcoming from the company.

Seamless access

The interim status report, dated January 30, 2024, submitted by the Inspector of RoC, has recommended an investigation by the SFIO, as the Inspectors of RoC have no power to access the income tax documents that are necessary for the probe from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). The SFIO is a designated authority to seamlessly access the income tax documents, available with the CBDT, seized during the searches conducted by the I-T authorities on CMRL and other entities, the MCA has stated.

The MCA has also said that it has not granted sanction for prosecuting Exalogic and its directors even though the inquiring officer of the RoC has recommended in the report for grant of sanction for serious violations, including for violation of the Act on "disclosures on related party transactions."

'Dormant company'

Exalogic had suppressed the facts on inquiry being pending against it by making a "fraudulent declaration in the dormancy application stating that 'no inquiry/investigation/inspection was pending" against the company as dormancy status cannot be obtained during pendency of such proceedings, the MCA stated, while pointing out that it had obtained the status of dormant company in December 2022.

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. ಕೃಮಾಇ/ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ರಾ)/ಸಾ.ನಿ/ಲೀ–ಕಂ–ಸೇ/ 1735 /2023–24, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12–02–2024

ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಲೀಜ್–ಕಂ–ಸೇಲ್ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೂಲಿಹಳ್ಳಿ–ಕೂನಬೇವು (ಮೆಗಾ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ) ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ 'ಎ', 'ಬಿ', 'ಸಿ', 'ಡಿ' ಮತ್ತು 'ಇ' ಬ್ಲಾಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಳತೆಯ 300 ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಲೀಜ್ ಕಂ ಸೇಲ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಪೇಟೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು 3 ನೇ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿ, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 10–01–2024 ರ ಕೃಮಾಇ / ಕೃಉಮಾಸ / ರಾ / ಸಾ.ನಿ / ಲೀಕಂಸೇ / 1539 / 2023–24 ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಲೀಜ್ ಕಂ ಸೇಲ್ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ 'ಬಿ' ಬ್ಲಾಕಿನ 217 ಮತ್ತು 226 ನೇ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ 02 ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಿಂದ ಕೈಬಿಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅವುಗಳ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಅದೇ ಬ್ಲಾಕಿನ 120 ಮತ್ತು 142 ನೇ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ 02 ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಅಲ್ಲದೇ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ವಿಧಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 07 ನೇ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, 16 ನೇ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಇದೊಂದು ಬಾರಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸೀಮಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಹಿಂಪಡೆಯಲಾಗಿರುವ ವಿವರ ಈ ಮುಂದಿನಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಷರತ್ತು–ಪ–ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿರುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿಂಪಡೆಯಲಾಗಿರುವ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ವಿವರ
07	'ಬಿ' ಬ್ಲಾಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ವರ್ತಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿರುವ ಶೇ. 60 ರಷ್ಟು ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವ ಮಾನದಂಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರನು ಒಣಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ ವಹಿವಾಟನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆಂದು ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ / ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ನೀಡಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಜೇಷ್ಠತೆಗೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ನಿಯಮ 8 ರನ್ವಯ ಸದರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರನು ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.
16	ಘನ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಭೂ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದ ಪೇಟೆಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣಕ್ಕನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ಹಾಗೂ ಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು ಎಂಬ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಇದೊಂದು ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಸೀಮಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಹಿಂಪಡೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಲು, III ನೇ ನಮೂನೆಯ ಖಾಲಿ ಫಾರಂಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ III ನೇ ನಮೂನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ **14–02–2024** ನೇ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನವನ್ನು **23–02–2024** ದಿನಾಂಕದವರೆಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವರ್ತಕರುಗಳು ಸದರಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿ ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಉಳಿದ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು
ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಾವೇರಿ/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/459/2023–24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagara Zone, BBMP Building, C A No-3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road- Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru-60

No.: EE/KEN/TEND/22/2023-24 Date : 12.02.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Tender Notification)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Single Cover System (Call-1)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Providing & installation of temporary CCTV Camera, Barricading facility & other maintenance works at Herohalli Anjaneya Swamy Temple Surrounding area in Ward No. 28, Herohalli	18.93	48,000/-

Calender of events : (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the Karnatka Public Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **13.02.2024, 4:00 p.m. (2)** Prebid meeting: **17.02.2024 @ 3:00 p.m.** Office of the Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeswari Nagar Zone, Bengaluru-98. **(3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **19.02.2024** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of bids: **20.02.2024** at **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP

SUMMONS TO THE RESPONDENT FOR APPEARANCE 'THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION'

Complaint No's.: CMP/UR/210701/0008087 & CMP/UR/210701/0008088

Between:
Nandakishore M. P ...Complainant
And
G. P. Ganesh & Anr. ...Respondent

To, G. P. Ganesh,
Proprietor,
M/s. Venkateshwara Infra Projects
888, 64th Cross, 18th Main, 5th Block,
Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560 010.

Whereas, the above complaints have got registered with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Karnataka by the Complainant seeking refund of money along with interest for the real estate project undertaken by you in the name and style of **"AVIGNAA HABITAT"**, situated at No.118(Old BDA No. 631 & 632, Rajajinagar 3rd stage), 9th main road, Bengaluru.

In view of the above, the Authority considers it appropriate to enforce your attendance in accordance with Sec. 35(2)(ii) of the RERA, 2016 on **05.03.2024** at **11.30 A.M** before the Full-bench, in order to ensure your presence in these cases during the above-mentioned date of hearing and submit your explanation. In the event of your failure to appear for hearing and submit your explanations, the matter would be decided ex-parte, based on the documents available on record.

You are hereby directed to submit your statement of objections, any other written submissions, documents in support of your contentions on all the matters listed above in the Authority by **05.03.2024** and ensure to serve the copies of the same on the Complainant.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this **12th day of February 2024**.

By Order of the Authority, Registrar,
Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority,
Bengaluru.

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone: 080-29776466 / 29776467 E-mail: bannerghattazoo@gmail.com

No: A3/BBP/Tender/Civil Works/CR-05/2023-24 Date: 05-02-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invited e-Tender from the eligible PWD Contractors for **Carryout Civil Development Works at Bannerghatta Biological Park.**

Detailed tender documents may be downloaded from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders may be submitted along with the prescribed EMD and tender fees electronically in e-Proc **on or before 23-02-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** Tender will be Opened **on 26-02-2024 after 11.30 AM onwards.**

Sd/-
Executive Director

DIPR/CP/3530/Adverto/2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **Smt. Rukminidevi D/o Pandit Venkatramachar and Dr.Vinay Narayan Pandit, S/o Narayan Pandit,** residing at No./1379, 24th Cross, 24th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bidarahalli BSK II Stage, Bangalore-560 070. Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying) to this sale transaction, with the undersigned within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing Municipal Property bearing No.23 (Sy.No.30/3 of Yediyur Nagasandra Village), PID 56-4-23, Measuring East 97 feet, West 108 feet, North 191 feet and South 170 feet, total measuring 35,937 Sq.ft., situated at Ganesh Mandir, Nagasandra Road/ 14th Cross, 2nd Block, Thyagarajanagar, Bangalore, and bounded on the:

East by : Vishweshariah Road,
West by : Jayachandra Hardware property,
North by : Muthappa and others property
South by : 14th Cross/Nagasandra Main Road.

Sd/-
S.F. Goutam Chand, Advocate
Goutam Associates, No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru–560004

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
Executive Engineer, KNNL, KPC Division No-2, Bhalki

No.EE/KNNL/KPC-2/BLK/PB-1/Tender/2023-24/1139 Dated: 12.02.2024

CORRIGENDUM-1

Ref No. No.EE/KNNL/KPC-2/BLK/PB-1/Tender/2023-24/1051 DATE: 24-01-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Only Through e-procurement System) In Two cover system

Tenders in Electronic mode on "PERCENTAGE BASIS" are invited on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, K P C Division No.2, Bhalki in Two cover systems, from the contractors enrolled in KPWD of Karnataka State who fulfill the qualifying conditions, for the works details mentioned below.

The work Indent no. is 1) 698, the amount put tender 1) Rs. 204.703 Crores. Respectively and EMD amount is Rs. 2.42 Crores. and Class of Contractor as per E-portal

Previous Calendar of events: a) The Contractor can have access to the e-tender document 25-01-2024, b) The Last date of Submission of completed tender documents 12-02-2024 @ 16.30Hrs c) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is 13-02-2024 @ 17.30 Hrs & Financial bid is 17-02-2024 @ 11.00 Hrs respectively. All details & information can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours and visit website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Modified Calendar of events: a) The Contractor can have access to the e-tender document **25-01-2024,** b) The Last date of Submission of completed tender documents **19-02-2024 @ 16.30Hrs,** c) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **20-02-2024 @ 17.00 Hrs** & Financial bid is **22-02-2024 @ 17.00 Hrs** respectively. All details & information can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours and visit website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, KPC, Division no-2, Bhalki.

DIPR/Bidar/259/1/KSMC&A/2023-24

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105. Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/DCE/TA/AE-1/Ydg_Ylb/2023-24/1376 Date: 12.02.2024

:: CORRIGENDUM-I ::

1) Detail of Work : Providing Water Supply Scheme to Shahapur town and Bhimarayangudi town in Yadgiri District under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 Years (including 1 Year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode. **(KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT108),** 2) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders : **15-02-2024 Up to 17:30 Hours**, 3) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **17-02-2024 After 11:30 Hours**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/808/KSMC&A/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Bidar District, Bidar-585401
Telephone No: 08482-229332, Fax No: 08482-225262, E-Mail: ka.bidar.dudc@gmail.com

No: DUDC/NAG-4(5% inc/CR-1/2022-23 Dated: 09.02.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of work: Improvements to Roads and Drains under Nagaarothana-4 Incentive Grants in TMC Bhalki Limits. **1. DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT14679** under Amrut Nagarothana Phase-4 (5% incentive) scheme. 2) Estimated cost: As per e-portal, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant: As per e-portal, 4) EMD amount: As per e-portal, 5) Pre bid meeting date : **15-02-2024 at 04.30 PM**, 6) Last date for submission of tender: **19-02-2024 upto 04.30 PM**, 7) Technical bid opening: **20-02-2024 upto 5.00 PM,** 8) Address for communication: Executive Engineer DUDC Bidar, DC Office Bidar, Pin code 585401, Email : ka.bidar.dudc@gmail.com, 08482-229332, 9) Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DUDC Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/278/KSMC&A/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYAT, HASSAN
DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE, HASSAN
Phone No.08172-246832 Fax No.08172-246575

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

As per Tender Specification Karnataka e-Procurement 1)Tender Reference No:HDH/EST(6)EQUIPMENT/40/2023-24, DATED: 25.01.2024 2)Tender Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time: 15.02.2024 Morning at 11.00 A.M. 3)Submission of application through e-procurement Dated: 19.02.2024 at 05:30.P.M 4)Date of Opening of Tender Cover Dated: 21.02.2024 Morning At 11:00 A.M. 5)Techicnial tender Documents Verification Date & Time: 23.02.2024 Morning at 11:00 A.M District Health and Family welfare office Hassan. 6)Date of Opening of Finanncial Bid Dated: 26.02.2024 Morning at 04:00.P.M at District Health and Family welfare Office Hassan. 7)Total Tender Amount for 3 Packages: Rs.74.00 Lakhs 8)Total EMD Amount for 3 Packages Rs.369720 9)If Any Details for contact District Health and Family welfare Office Hassan Phone No.08172-246832 For More Details https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in The Tender accepting authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender without assigning any reasons there off. The details in this regard may be obtained from the office of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Hassan. We publish any amendments regarding this tender only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Hassan

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಂಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/757/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/763/2023–24

Pakistan in turmoil

Instability will follow any attempt to subvert the mandate for Imran Khan

Pakistan's elections, on February 8, were not held on a level-playing field. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, arguably the most popular politician, has been in jail since May 2023, facing multiple cases and serving convictions. His party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), was barred from using its symbol on the ballot paper, forcing it to field independent candidates. Many of its leaders were also in jail or on the run, while others were forced to quit politics or defect to another party. What Pakistan saw in the run-up to the elections was a systematic effort by powerful quarters to dismantle Mr. Khan's political vehicle. Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif, once the nemesis of the army, who returned from exile in London, led his party's campaign with the establishment's blessings. But if the generals thought these measures would destroy the PTI's political leverage and catapult their favourites to power, they were proven wrong by voters. Independents won 101 of the 265 seats (93 went to PTI-linked candidates), the PML-N secured 75 seats while the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won 54, and the Karachi-based Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan took 17. To form a government, 134 seats are needed.

This does not mean that the PTI, whose independent candidates form the largest bloc, would be able to form the next government. When it was evident that no bloc had an absolute majority, Nawaz Sharif called on every party, barring the PTI, to form a unity government. With Army Chief Gen. Asim Munir backing Mr. Sharif's call, what followed was an in-principle agreement between the PML-N and the PPP "to work together for political stability". All these developments point to political manoeuvring aimed at stitching together a unity government that will keep the PTI and Mr. Khan out of power. The independents could also come under pressure to switch to the coalition parties. The PTI, which has already alleged electoral irregularities, has called for street protests, triggering memories of the widespread clashes in May 2023 after Mr. Khan's arrest. The military may have wanted to turn the page of Mr. Khan's challenge and create a new political reality through the electoral process, but the results have underscored his popularity and public anger towards the establishment. For a long-term solution, the generals should make peace with Mr. Khan and allow the spirit of the results to prevail – an unlikely outcome. As political parties that finished second and third are moving ahead with their plans with blessings from the establishment, public discontent and distrust would remain the unresolved issues. With the PTI's challenge from the streets, Pakistan could face another cycle of instability and chaos.

The real travesty

A Governor who profoundly disagrees with State govt. should not stay in office

The Governor's customary address to the legislature at the first session of every year is being increasingly politicised. More often than not, those responsible for such unseemly controversies overshadowing the solemn occasion are the incumbents in Raj Bhavan. In the latest instance, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has expressed his inability to read out the address prepared by the DMK-run government, citing what he termed "misleading claims and facts" in numerous passages. Reading them out, he claimed, would have made the Governor's address "a constitutional travesty". Compounding this constitutional mischief with a partisan claim, he sought to make much of the fact that the national anthem is played only at the end of the address and not at the beginning also. Anyone who understands the Governor's role in a parliamentary democracy will know that it is the one declining to read out the address prepared by an elected government who reduces the address to a travesty. Governments are run by parties that contest elections on a political platform, and it is only to be expected that they would seek to trumpet their achievements, real or exaggerated, in policy statements. It is the role of the political opposition and the people to judge the content of the address, and not that of the Governor.

A simple test to ascertain the tenability of Mr. Ravi's claim that he declined to read out the customary address on factual and moral grounds is to raise the question whether either the President or a Governor in a Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled State would ever do so. He did not spell out what exactly the misleading or factually wrong points were, but it is not constitutionally sustainable to claim that the Governor's address should contain no criticism of the Centre or make no policy pronouncements against the Centre's policies. However, his point that the Speaker should not have launched a tirade against him after reading out the Tamil version of the Governor's prepared speech is justified. Such conduct by constitutional functionaries detract from the Assembly's dignity. The larger issue is still the propensity of Governors to act as political agents of the ruling party at the Centre. It is an unfortunate feature of India's constitutional system that the country is never short of grey eminences eager to occupy gubernatorial office, but once appointed, they are equally eager to enter the political thicket. It is as if they believe that their duty is to obstruct and undermine State governments run by political adversaries. The real travesty is not in a formal address containing questionable claims, but in a Governor who disagrees profoundly with its policy while remaining in office.

Gandhi's Ram is not in the Ram mandir

Gandhiji breathed his last in 1948 with 'Hey Ram' on his lips. Lord Ram was an influence on Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi since his childhood. As the Mahatma noted in his autobiography, that being of the Vaishnava faith since birth, visiting the temples of Rama and Krishna was his habit. But the temples did not instil faith in the boy Gandhi. He noted, "But what I failed to get there, I obtained from my nurse, an old servant...Rambha, that was her name, suggested as a remedy for this fear, the repetition of Rama-*nama* (the name, Rama)." It became an infallible remedy for him for the rest of his life. However, the Rama-*nama* which he refers to is no longer the idol to be found in a temple, nor a recitation as a ritual. Instead, it was something deep within the heart.

Sudarshan Iyengar

is a Gandhian scholar, a former Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad, a university founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920, and also the co-author of the book, 'Abundant Love', a long form conversation with Satish Kumar, the founder of Schumacher College in the United Kingdom

Rooted in spirituality

Gandhi brought religion into politics. But his religion had its roots in spirituality. Gandhian scholar Raghavan Iyer notes in his book, *The Moral and Political Thought of Mahatma Gandhi*, that Gandhi sought to make politics religious and religion practical. In this effort, he built upon a neglected strand of Indian tradition – the path of karma yoga or spiritual realisation through social action. This was action of the kind associated with classical heroes such as Rama and Janaka, and reaffirmed in modern India by Vivekananda and Aurobindo.

Gandhi aimed to work for the purification of politics and reform formal religion. He gave new meaning to Rama, Rama-*nama* and *Ramarajya* in his discourse. His own journey of continuous self-purification was by chanting Rama-*nama* from the depth of his heart in the form of prayer.

In the *Harijan*, issue dated March 18, 1933, Gandhiji referred to three questions raised by an 'iconoclast schoolmaster' and answered them.

The first was: "Is it necessary for a Hindu, following the life of Shri Ramachandra, also to go and see his image in the temple? Is *darshan* better than action?"

The second: "If we bow our head or join our hands before a living person, he replies in return, but the image does not. Then what is the use of doing it? What is the use of writing letters to one who never replies?"

The third: "The person, whose image a Hindu adores, might have committed some wrongs in his lifetime. Will not the adorer be harmed by copying those wrongs, which he is likely to copy if he worships his image?" [*The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*, Volume 54, pp.111-112, Art.125-Posers]

> The politicisation of religion, which does not augur well for the country, is the reverse of what Gandhi stood for

Gandhi held it unfortunate that Rama who should be inside the self is sought in the image. Yet, Gandhi would not disturb the "simple faith" that saw Ram only in the temple. Gandhi's response was as follows: "It is not necessary for any Hindu to go to a temple to worship (the image of) Ramachandra. But it is for him who cannot contemplate his Rama without looking at his image in a temple. It may be unfortunate, but it is true that his Rama resides in that temple as nowhere else. I would not disturb that simple faith."

But deed, or action, was more important than the *darshan*. Mute worship constitutes the letter to god. God is not only in the temple. Gandhi wrote that he did not make any distinction between temple, mosque and church.

On the third question, he wrote, "Though my reason and heart long ago realised the highest attribute and name of God as Truth, I recognise Truth by the name of Rama. In the darkest hour of my trial, that one name has saved me and is still saving me" [*The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*, Volume 54, p.112].

In all of Gandhi's speeches, articles and letters, Rama, Rama-*nama* and Tulsidas's *Ramcharitmanas* (Ramayana) have been mentioned, commented on and invoked hundreds of times.

Gandhi's Rama

Who is Gandhi's Rama? Is he a Hindu god? He has clarified this several times. In his prayer meeting on April 4, 1946, at Birla House, Delhi, Gandhi said the following. "I laugh within myself when someone says that Rama or the chanting of Rama-*nama* is for the Hindus only, and that how can Mussalmans (Muslims), therefore, take part in it? Is there one God for the Mussalmans and another for the Hindus, Parsis or Christians? No, there is only one omnipotent and omnipresent God. He is named variously, and we remember Him by the name which is most familiar to us. My Rama, the Rama of our prayers, is not the historical Rama, the son of Dasaratha, the King of Ayodhya. He is the eternal, the unborn, the one without a second. Him alone I worship, His aid alone I seek, and so should you. He belongs equally to all. I, therefore, see no reason why a Musalman or anybody should object to taking His name. But he is in no way bound to recognise God as Ramanama. He may utter to himself Allah or Khuda so as not to mar the harmony of the sound" [*The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*, Volume 83, p.364].

Gandhi knew the deep and serious implications of upholding Rama as a role model and Rama-*nama* as a cure for all ills in India where people from many religions live and where the Hindu-Muslim conflict is more than a century-old and the schism was deepened by the British with intent. Hence, he was always careful not to visit temples, mosques and churches. But he used the symbols from Hindu traditions and the religion to which he was born.

In 1929, at a public meeting in Bhopal, he said, "I warn my Musalman friends against misunderstanding me in my use of the word *Ramarajya*. By *Ramarajya*, I do not mean Hindu Raj. I mean by *Ramarajya*, a divine raj, the Kingdom of God. For me, Rama and Rahim are one and the same deity. I acknowledge no other God but the one God of Truth and righteousness." This was Gandhi's religion in politics and public life.

Gandhi further wrote: "Whether the Rama of my imagination ever lived or not on this earth, the ancient ideal of *Ramarajya* is undoubtedly one of true democracy in which the meanest citizen could be sure of swift justice without an elaborate and costly procedure. Even the dog is described by the poet to have received justice under Ramarajya,"

The present day

It is important to record Gandhi's Rama, Rama-*nama* and *Rama-rajya* in today's context. The politicisation of religion is the reverse of what Gandhi stood for. It does not augur well for the country. The Prime Minister of a country, which by its Constitution is a secular state, should have sent enormous good wishes on the occasion of the consecration of the Ram Temple built on the basis of a judgment of the Supreme Court. India claims to be a multi-religious and multicultural society and a Prime Minister appearing partisan to one religion, notwithstanding his religion, faith and dedication, has not sent out healthy signals. This is a celebration in a place where Gandhi's Ram is not likely to be found.

Through The Billion Press. E-mail: editor@thebillionpress.org

A global alliance to bridge the gender equity gap

Equality and inclusion are the cornerstones of India's development journey. The New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, which was adopted at the G-20 under India's presidency, is testament to this commitment. By prioritising inclusion at the centre of focus areas such as socio-economic empowerment, bridging the digital divide, driving climate action, ensuring food security, nutrition, health, and well-being, among others, the declaration underlines the need for advocating a growth agenda that is driven by women-led development.

At the World Economic Forum in January this year, India took the mission for gender equity several steps ahead with the launch of the 'Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality'. This multi-stakeholder initiative has placed India centre stage for accelerating the socio-economic cause as it will have a sustained global impact. With the Alliance, India has managed to transition the two buzzwords, equity and equality, to the working agendas of stakeholders around the world.

Chandrajit Banerjee

is Director-General, Confederation of Indian Industry

Bolstering governance

Mainstreaming gender equality and equity has been a key development area for the Government of India for over a decade now. The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill last year, ensuring reservation of a third of seats for women in Parliament and the State Assemblies, is a revolutionary tool for women's empowerment and is expected to contribute extensively to improving the processes of India's governance. Allocations of nearly $27 billion under the gender budget in 2023-24 are a manifestation of the commitment of the government to advancing women-led development.

There has been an increase in India's female labour force participation rate, from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 37% in 2022-23 (data from the annual Periodic Labour Force Surveys). Female enrolment in higher education has gone up by 28% in the last 10 years. In terms of enrolment in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) courses, the share of women is a significant 43%, which is one of the highest enrolment rates in the world. Even within rural India, there is a participation of over nine crore women in 83 lakh self-help groups, improving the socio-economic conditions in rural areas. All these provide a glimpse of women-led development that India is witnessing.

> India's launch of the Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality is a step towards enabling 'equity' and 'equality'

An Indian contribution at Davos

I am happy to observe that global leaders are now acknowledging the success of these initiatives and learning from our success stories, be it in space exploration, sports, entrepreneurship or even in United Nations peacekeeping operations around the world. The changes are there for all to see. The enthusiasm around the We-Lead Lounge set up by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Confederation of Indian Industry at Davos, saw global interest and curiosity. It served as a platform to have many meaningful deliberations around how the world can contribute, join, and drive inclusive development. The Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality now serves as a platform to channelise the resultant enthusiasm and intent into action at the global level.

The Alliance, anchored by the CII Centre for Women Leadership, guided by the Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will have a global network of experts, think-tanks, industry and country leadership that will drive collective actions to augment women empowerment. The partnership of the World Economic Forum as a network partner in this initiative, is testament to the global relevance and the global resolve to drive growth that is inclusive and equitable.

With an overarching goal to share and develop scaleable and practical solutions for advancing women-led development in the areas of ed-tech, medical capacity building, and delivery of health interventions for women, learning and skill development, agrotech, women enterprise development and unlocking capital to enable stronger gender outcomes, the Alliance brings together stakeholders on this critical global development agenda. India's leadership in these areas is proven, gaining the label of "pharmacy of the world". India's digital prowess is also well known. The alliance is yet another example of leadership, as India accepts responsibility to provide shared direction to stakeholders globally.

An opportunity

For industry across the globe, this is an opportunity: to share some of the practices that we have developed to advance the entry and growth of women in the workspace; to invest in proven programmes and initiatives and enable them reach scale, and to work collectively to make inclusion a business conversation. It is also an opportunity to learn and develop solutions with the global community consisting of industry, think tanks and investors to advance our commitment to increased engagement and leadership of women within the economy, through increased access to health care, education opportunities and economic opportunities.

Given India's abiding commitment to '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* - One Earth, One Family, One Future' and its continued efforts towards *Sabka Saath*, *Sabka Prayaas*, *Sabka Vikaas*, this Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality is poised to be a force to reckon with on all gender-related issues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farm issue

Scriptures say that as god shuts one door he opens another. On magnanimity that is similar, even as the government fortifies the Delhi borders for the farmers' march, its Agriculture Minister has gone on record to say that the government is keeping its mind open on talks with them. If this time around the barricades on the borders are seen to be far deeper and more intimidating than those during the earlier agitation, it is only fair to hope that the government is willing to keep its mind open far wider than before. But then why at all the barricades, if the government is confident of its persuasive powers and its avowed concerns for the farmer?

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

The farmers' demand for guaranteed minimum support prices has remained unaddressed for long. The talks have failed again and it is strange that the government which acts in many ways, with surprise moves — as seen in recent times with the election in mind — has not come forward to accept their legitimate demands. The backbone of the economy in this country is agriculture and the ruling party is very likely to lose a chunk of votes from this distressed community if its demands are not met.

N. Visveswaran,
Chennai

Heaping blame

Even after a decade in power, it is unfortunate that the Prime Minister and others in his government still blame the Congress for deficiencies in governance. The charge this time is that the "Cong. [is] dividing people on lines of caste, religion: PM" (Inside pages, February 12). This should be read in reverse. It is actually the NDA government led by the BJP that is engineering a divisive policy on caste and religious lines. This is very clear from the line in Parliament that the temple consecration in Ayodhya could usher a new era that would make generations proud. How will this event solve people's problems? How convenient it is to ignore the burning ethnic issue in Manipur, inflation and unemployment! If the government has made a record increase in MSP for farm produce, then why are farmers on a rally fired up on this issue? The Opposition is not strong enough to point out the deficiencies in the BJP's policies. People should analyse these before voting.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

Title regained

The Australian U-19 cricket team's win demonstrates its dominance in ICC competitions. But our boys did play well and their poise and maturity versus South Africa in the semifinal were a "show stopper" ('Sport' February 12).

K. Akash,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

The story titled "'Ahalan Modi': large turnout expected at PM's diaspora event in UAE" (February 12, 2024) erroneously referred to the spokesperson for the event as Nisha Singh. It should have been Nishi Singh.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

NEET registration

I am a class 12 student and as a NEET aspirant, I am part of many 'NEET groups' on WhatsApp. Recently, we came across a weblink (https://neet.ntaonline.in/frontend/web/registration/index) which directs you to register for NEET. There is a document attached which does not list any country outside India as a centre for NEET, which makes many parents believe that an aspirant has to travel to India for the NEET examination on May 5, 2024. No candidate has been able to register on this site, causing much panic and stress. Is it a fake site?

Om Shetty,
Dubai

The state of the Indian economy today

Subramanian Swamy

is former Union Minister of Commerce and Law and Justice

The state of the Indian economy today and its prospects have to be based on mathematics and statistics. We can get a reality check on the economic growth rate by examining the three conclusions that emerge today based on data published by the National Statistical Office. This helps us analyse the Modi government's economic performance as disclosed in Parliament and subsequently published in the media.

What the data say

First, India's GDP growth rate declined annually from 2016-17, and fell below 3.5% in the fourth quarter of 2019-20. This four-year continuous decline from a 7% growth rate to 3.5% rate has never been acknowledged by the government. Second, it is essential to recognise that since 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's widely publicised 'vikas' or development model in reality achieved the so-called "Hindu rate of growth" in GDP, which had been "achieved" during the Congress's socialist period of 1950-77. Third, in P.V. Narasimha Rao's and Manmohan Singh's tenures as Prime Minister, India departed from the socialist path and the GDP growth rates rose for the first time to 6%-8% per year and over a 15-year period i.e., between 1991-96 and 2004-2014 (with the usual cyclical ups and downs). That is, it took Rao and Dr. Singh to understand and reform the Indian economic system, reduce state participation, and increase incentives for capital and labour providers, and achieve a higher and faster growth rate.

What is alarming since Mr. Modi assumed office is the serious and continuous decline in the GDP growth rate. The decline had began in 2016 and continues even today. The Modi government has thus failed to structure economic policy coherently. Incoherence prevailed during the 2014-2023 period and will perhaps continue in the future as well.

Furthermore, not only has the GDP growth rate been declining since 2016, but brazen announcements of rosy predictions were and are being published annually in the media, with outrageous claims made by Mr. Modi. One such claim made in 2019 was that India will become a $5 trillion economy by 2024. This implied a doubling of the GDP in five years or, in other words, a 15% annual growth rate of GDP. There has been no policy structuring presented to achieve this aim nor has anyone in the government shown willingness to debate it on public fora.

Post-COVID-19, we hear and read in the media that the growth rate of GDP is around 6% + annually. But this is misleading and deliberately so because what is not disclosed is that the growth rate includes recovery as well, since 2020-22. Hence, if we calculate the GDP growth rate between 2019-20 and 2022-23, two normal years, it works out to less than 4% per year for the period. The Modi government was elected democratically. Hence, it is obligated to disclose facts transparently to the people.

In this decade of weak demand and relatively excess supply, resources mobilised by the government should be largely through indirect taxes and also through the liberal printing of currency notes to generate demand from non-rich citizens. The annual interest paid on fixed-term savings in the bank accounts of the middle class should be higher, at 9% or so. The interest rates on loans issued to small and medium industries should be no more than 6% on the loans. These essential reforms need to be carried out to generate non-inflationary demand.

Post-COVID-19, we hear that the growth rate of GDP is around 6% + annually. But this is misleading because what is not disclosed is that the growth rate includes recovery as well, since 2020-22

A new economic policy

"Modinomics" has been an unstructured flop. No announced macroeconomic goal has been achieved by the government till date. Thus, India urgently needs a new economic policy that is based on clearly structured and stated objectives and priorities, and a strategy to achieve the targets, with an intelligent and transparent resource mobilisation plan to finance the policies. At present, from the Finance Ministry, we only have an incoherent hotchpotch of public announcements with no accountability.

The market system is not a free-for-all or ad hoc measure. It is structured with rules of transactions. A market system with transparent and minimal regulation works since the principal drivers are incentives and domestic savings whose deployment for innovation pushes up factor productivity and thus the GDP growth rate. Even a totalitarian state such as China understood this. During Deng Xiaoping's tenure as paramount leader, it allowed the socialist economic system to die, and the economic market-based system to wash in, even while maintaining the system of political dictatorship.

The trade-offs through affirmative action, social security, and safety nets are essential for creating a stake for the poor in the system and level the playing field to create hope, ensure transparency, accountability, trusteeship [philanthropy] as well as corporate governance to legitimise profit-making that will drive the market system. Deregulation should also not mean that we reject government intervention for safety nets, affirmative action, market failures, and creating a level-playing field.

Democratic institutions have to be empowered to guard against public disorder arising from rapid deregulation, as it happened in Russia post-1991. Russia underwent chaos and misery, which meant dictatorship returned for the Russians, and with it came a loss of human rights and democratic values. The current slow slide to autocracy would lead to what has happened in Russia.

Telangana's education paradox

While gross enrolment ratio in school is poor, students do well in competitive exams

STATE OF PLAY

Serish Nanisetti
serish.n@thehindu.co.in

Telangana presents a rare paradox in the education sector. Its students perform exceptionally well in the All India Joint Entrance Examination every year. In 2023, 11 out of 43 students scored 100 percentile, the highest among all States. But the Annual Status of Education Report for 2022 makes for grim reading. The State also has the highest share of students in the 14-18 group who are not in the education system. Ironically, the students from the State who crack national competitive exams are from the same age group.

Other States with poor social indicators are better off than Telangana. While 22.1% of children in the age group of 14-18 in Telangana were out of the education system, the national average was 13.2%. School students in the State don't have skills that match their counterparts in other parts of the country. For instance, nationally, 43.3% of students could do basic arithmetic calculations, while in Telangana, only 19.75% could do so in the 14-18 age group.

Low investment in education by successive governments lies at the heart of the problem. The State has 3,274 junior colleges of which only 420 are managed by the State government. But it has 1,349 privately run junior colleges, most of them in urban areas. The result is that many students have to travel long distances to reach college. The State also runs other residential junior colleges and facilities, but the admission for them is through a competitive exam. This also keeps a high

share of students out of the education system.

The interim Budget presented by the incumbent Congress government appears to recognise both the quality of education and the funding gap for the sector. "Our government's biggest priority will be school education. Apart from providing the required funds for various facilities and schemes on a regular basis, the government has decided to set up digital classrooms in the schools," said the Finance Minister, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, in his maiden Interim Budget speech. Funding has been raised from ₹18,955 crore, earmarked in the 2023-24 Budget, to ₹21,839 crore – a substantial increase of 15.21%. But this is not enough. Telangana has consistently underspent on the education sector over the past decade. The budgetary outlay for education in 2014-15 was 10.89%. If the State had maintained the same pace of sectoral outlay, the education budget for 2024-25 should have been ₹30,044.53 crore.

When the Telangana Rashtra Samithi came to power, it used the slogan of 'KG to PG' free education for the poor. But the investment required to fulfil the promise was never made. The State managed to build only one show-piece facility in Sircilla, the Assembly constituency of former Municipal Administration and Urban Development minister K.T. Rama Rao. Even this was not developed with State funding, but with monies under Corporate Social Responsibility from a building conglomerate.

NGOs in the State have been highlighting the abysmal state of educational infrastructure by sharing information and photographs of schools without boundary walls and of cattle roaming around in dysfunctional washrooms. The high dropout rate among girls of the 14-18 group is directly linked to the absence of hygienic toilet facilities.

The quality of education has been affected by the slow pace of recruitment in the education sector which has scuppered the hopes of lakhs of aspiring teachers. In 2019, the State government appointed eight serving Indian Administrative Service officers as in-charge vice-chancellors as an ad hoc measure after the tenure of the vice-chancellors ended. The universities which had IAS officers as vice-chancellors included Kakatiya University, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University-Hyderabad, and Osmania University. Only in May 2021 did the universities get academicians as full-fledged vice-chancellors. It was clear that the State cared little about educational institutions.

One of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals is to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". It is clear that Telangana will not achieve this goal in time. It will also be unable to achieve the goal of ensuring 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio goal in higher education by 2030, a stated goal of the Union government. It is time for the Telangana government to follow through on its promises in education.

A record number of global voters exercise right in 2024

Many countries have a low score in the index that measures free and fair polls; India ranks somewhere in the middle

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Over 50 countries in which close to 45% of the people in the world reside have gone to the polls or will go to the polls this year. This only includes those countries which conducted or will conduct national-level polls this year or are part of the nations which choose the European Parliament. Countries conducting local elections have been ignored. With the world's population on the rise and many countries having elections this year, estimates indicate that 2024 could see the highest number of votes polled in history.

Most of these elections are concentrated in Asia, Europe, and Northern America. Some countries from Africa and South America also choosing their leaders this year. **Map 1** shows the countries which are going to the polls or have already completed elections this year. The countries in Europe that are only voting for the European Parliament and are not choosing their country's government have been highlighted with a different colour.

An assessment of how free and fair the elections are in these countries shows that democracy is on the retreat in many of them. Only a few countries showed improvement in this area. To measure the fairness of elections, **Chart 2** arranges countries according to their scores in the free and fair elections index 2022. This is prepared by the V-Dem Institute based on expert assessments. It captures the extent to which election violence, government intimidation, fraud, large irregularities, and vote buying are absent in a country. It ranges from 0 (least free and fair) to 1 (most free and fair). The bigger the size of the circle in the chart, the higher the voting population of the country.

Comoros, the archipelagic country in Africa, fared the worst in the 2022 index. According to news reports, President Azali Assoumani was re-elected for the fourth term in January. The Opposition termed the poll "fraudulent". Voter turnout was very low at 16% as the Opposition boycotted the polls. Countries in the subcontinent including India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan were either middling or in the lower half of the index. The two major parties in Pakistan are fighting over who will be Prime Minister, with Imran Khan, one of the candidates for the post, in prison. On the day of the polls, there was a mobile Internet shutdown and the results were delayed. Recently, a Mayor election in Chandigarh, India, was heavily criticised by the Supreme Court for the manner in which a BJP candidate was declared as winner. In the videos, the presiding officer appears to be defacing ballots which the Chief Justice of India called a "mockery of democracy".

Fellow Asian countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Mongolia also rank relatively low in the index. Earlier this month, in Russia, Boris Nadezhdin, who opposes the invasion of Ukraine, was not accepted as a candidate for the presidential election in March. Of the one lakh signatures of supporters he is supposed to get to prove his worth as a candidate, 9,000 were rejected by the Election Commission as invalid. India, with a score of 0.53 is right in the middle of the index.

Chart 3 shows the change in the free and fair elections index between 2012 and 2022. Comoros, India, Hungary, Bangladesh, Poland, and El Salvador are among the countries where the index has deteriorated the most in the past decade. Only countries which showed at least some degree of decline in the index or improvement are depicted in the chart. Uzbekistan, Romania, and Togo are countries which have shown improvement in the index in the last decade.

Democracy on the decline in many nations

The data for charts were sourced from Our World in Data, International IDEA, World Bank and the Association of World Election Bodies

Map 1: The map shows the countries going to the polls or have already completed elections in 2024

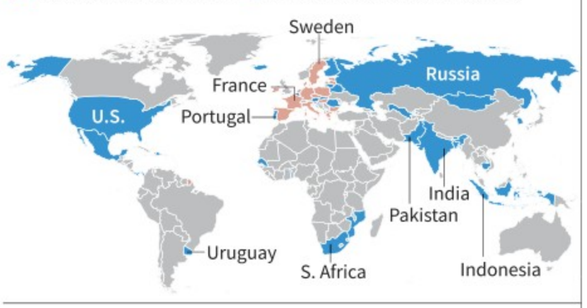
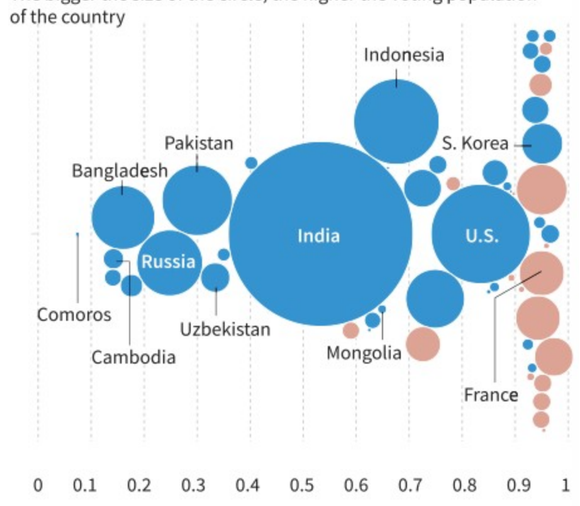


Chart 2: The chart shows the free and fair elections index, 2022. The bigger the size of the circle, the higher the voting population of the country



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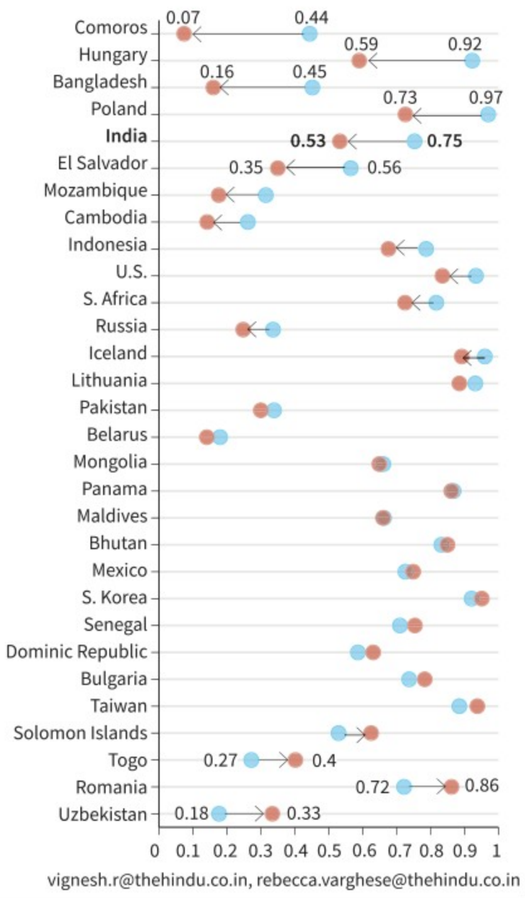


vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in, rebecca.varghese@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1974

Trunk automatic exchanges for more towns

Madras, Feb. 12: Trunk Automatic Exchanges (TAX) would be installed at Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchi during the Fifth Plan, Mr. Janakiraman, Post Master General, Tamil Nadu Circle said here to-day.

Mr. Janakiraman said besides this, the capacity of the TAX at Madras would also be increased. Already Bangalore and Coimbatore had been connected to this, providing inter-dialling facility.

Work had also been commenced on the coaxial scheme linking Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode, Salem and Bangalore. A similar scheme to link Madurai with Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Nagercoil and Trivandrum had also been approved. Madras would also be linked with Tiruchi via Pondicherry.

These systems were likely to be completed during the Fifth Plan.

A microwave scheme linking Madurai, Kodaikanal, Theni and Coimbatore was expected to be completed during 1974-75, he said.

Mr. Janakiraman said a wide-hand microwave project linking Madras with Bombay and Trivandrum via Bangalore, Mangalore and Panjim would be commissioned by 1976-77. Under this project, a spur route linking Madras with Tirupathi had also been provided and expected to be commissioned during 1974-75.

Mr. Janakiraman said the number of new Savings Bank accounts in October 1973 was 19,000 and it shot up to 50,000 in November of the same year. The deposits had also risen from Rs. 2.5 crores in April 1972 to Rs. 5.4 crores in November 1973.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1924

New Railway in East Africa

Nairobi, Feb. 12: Sir Robert Coryndon opened at Eldcret on Monday the new Uasin Gishu Railway, which has been completed as far as Eldoret. The Govenor's train got through with the greatest difficulty owing to rains and the line not yet being open to traffic. But its completion marks a great forward step and rewards the energy and patience of hundreds of settlers in the Uasin Gishu area.

From Page One

Qatar frees 7 Indian Navy veterans

While Mr. Modi's visit to the UAE was announced earlier, the announcement of his Qatar visit was made by Mr. Kwatra at a special media interaction held here.

Qatar is a major supplier of energy to India and at least eight lakh Indian workers are employed in the Gulf country which continues to be a major source of foreign remittances to the Indian economy. Despite the case involving the eight Indian Navy veterans, economic ties have remained on track and recently the two sides signed a $78 billion LNG deal that extended an existing agreement on supply of liquified natural gas (LNG) till 2048.

"The bilateral relationship between India and Qatar that has been steadily growing includes a comprehensive span, including political ties, trade and investment linkages, our strong energy partnership and ties in the field of culture, education and security," Mr. Kwatra added.

The Hindu had published earlier that both the United Arab Emirates and Qatar hold around 3,000 Indian prisoners in their prisons and the prisons in the Gulf region hold more than half of the total Indian prisoners in foreign jails.

T.N. Governor skips customary address

Later, the Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution proposed by the Leader of the House and Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan.

As per the resolution, the Speaker said only the prepared text of the speech as provided to the members and nothing else will go on the records of the Assembly. This was similar to a decision taken by the House last year when the Governor skipped certain portions of the address and also made certain extempore remarks.

Mr. Ravi walked out of the House when Mr. Duraimurugan, upon being called by the Speaker, rose to propose the resolution.

Prior to calling Mr. Duraimurugan, Mr. Appavu made certain remarks on the short speech made by the Governor. However, at a press conference in his chamber later, he said both the Governor's remarks and the remarks he himself made stood "expunged".

In its statement, the Raj Bhavan blamed the Speaker for launching a tirade against him in the Assembly instead of playing the national anthem after concluding the Tamil version of the address.

NDA govt. wins Bihar trust vote

The NDA, comprising the BJP, Janata Dal (United), Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), and an Independent MLA, had support of 128 MLAs while the Opposition *Mahagathbandhan* (grand alliance) of the RJD, Congress, and Left parties had the support of 114 legislators. One MLA of Asaduddin Owaisi's All Indian Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), Akhtarul Iman, was undecided.

During the floor test, JD(U) member Dilip Kumar Ray was absent and party MLA Hazari did not vote as he was in the Chair. Three MLAs from RJD - Prahlad Yadav, Nilam Devi and Chetan Anand - switched sides to vote in favour of the NDA. Mr. Prahlad Yadav was a founder-member of the RJD and is a three-time MLA from Suryagraha Assembly constituency in Lakhisarai district. Ms. Devi had won the Assembly byelection from Mokama constituency in 2022 after her husband and *bahubali* (strongman) Anant Singh was disqualified.

Senior BJP leader Nand Kishor Yadav is likely to be the new Speaker of the Assembly.

Retail inflation down to 3-month low in January

The price rise in pulses also cooled marginally from 20.7% in December to 19.5% in January.

Cereals and spices inflation saw slightly better moderation, dropping from 9.9% and 19.7% in December to 7.8% and 16.4%, respectively. Fruits inflation also fell from 11.1% to 8.65% in January, while milk prices rose 4.6% compared with 5.1% in December.

Inflation in eggs, however, picked up pace to touch 5.6% in January, as did sugar and confectionary price rise which hit 7.5% from 7.1% a month earlier.

Most non-food items continued to see weaker upticks in prices compared to food items, with personal care and effects that had clocked a 7.3% rise in prices in December, dropping below 6%. Education inflation inched up a tad from 4.77% in December to 4.93% in January, but the pace of rise in healthcare costs dropped from 5.1% to 4.8%.

Half of the 22 major States for which the National Statistical Office calculates inflation rates registered a price rise below the national average of 5.1%, with Delhi recording the lowest inflation of 2.56%, followed by Madhya Pradesh (3.93%), Kerala (4.04%), and Tamil Nadu (4.12%).

On the other hand, five States reported inflation of over 6%, breaching the RBI's tolerance threshold for price rise. Those States are Odisha (7.55%), Telangana (6.34%), Haryana (6.24%), Gujarat (6.21%), and Karnataka which witnessed 6.1% inflation in January.

Supreme Court to hear plea in Sena dispute case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on an early date the question of maintainability of an appeal filed by Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray (UBT) against the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's decision to dismiss disqualification petitions against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and supporting MLAs, while holding them as the "real" Shiv Sena, on January 22.

Appearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sunil Prabhu, submitted that the petition needed to be heard urgently by the court.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for one of the respondents, said an identical petition was filed by the Shiv Sena (UBT) camp in the Bombay High Court. It was still pending.

Mr. Salve questioned how the same appellant could agitate an identical cause in two different courts at the same time.

Chief Justice Chandrachud said the case would be listed soon by the top court.

Talks with Centre break down, farmers set to march to Delhi

Farmer leaders say Union Ministers did not offer any assurance on MSP guarantee during their meeting in Chandigarh; they said the protests will begin at 10 a.m. today; Delhi Police impose Section 144 for a month to prevent gatherings

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

With the second round of meeting held on Monday with Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Arjun Munda in Chandigarh failing, farmers belonging to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha-Non Political (SKM-NP), a splinter group of Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), have decided to continue with the 'Delhi Chalo' protests as planned on Tuesday. The leaders said the protests will begin at 10 a.m.

The farmer leaders said that the Centre failed to give any assurance on their demands during the five-hour-long meeting. The bone of contention was an assurance on guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP).

"The Ministers did not give us any assurance on MSP. The talks collapsed. We will continue our protests," K.V. Biju, a senior farmer leader told *The Hindu* after the meeting.

Their other demands – freedom from debt, hiked import duties on all agricultural products, cancellation of all free trade agreements and other deals with the World Trade Organisation (WTO), suspending privatisation of electricity boards, a ban on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and corporatisation in agriculture, and a pension for farmers – remained unanswered as well.

"The Centre has taken an adamant stand. We have no other way before us than continuing the protests," said SKM-NP leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal.

Heavy fortification: Multi-layered barricading in place on Monday to seal the national capital's borders to prevent farmers from entering the city. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Senior SKM-NP leader Shiv Kumar Kakka, Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher and Punjab Minister for Administrative Reforms and NRI Affairs Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal were also present in the meeting.

Mr. Pandher said the Centre was trying to buy time. "We want the Centre to implement the assurances given to us two years ago. But they said they still want time," he added.

Meanwhile, police forces in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have strengthened the security at Delhi's border, expecting the presence of large numbers of farmers.

The Delhi Police have imposed Section 144 of the CrPC for one month.

An order issued by Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, which came into effect on Monday, would be enforced until March 12.

Farmers from Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana are expected to enter Delhi during their march.

(With inputs from Samridhi Tewari)

Tight security in Haryana as farmers begin Delhi journey

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

With thousands of farmers and farm labourers from Punjab determined to lay siege to Delhi on Tuesday in an attempt to force the government to fulfil their demands, the Haryana government has established multiple layers of barricades to stop them from passing through the State.

The government has imposed traffic restrictions and security has been intensified, especially at entry points from Punjab, which include Ambala-Shambhu border, Khanauri-Jind and Dabwali.

Nails, barbed wire, concrete blocks, boulders and anti-riot vehicles are at hand along with water cannons. Mobile Internet services have already been suspended in Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa.

Cong. leaders meet to discuss seat sharing for Lok Sabha polls

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Congress leaders on Monday met at the residence of party chief Mallikarjun Kharge to discuss the finalisation of seat-sharing arrangements with various parties of the INDIA bloc.

Sources said the Congress president discussed with Sonia Gandhi the names of party candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. Ms. Gandhi and party treasurer Ajay Maken are among the likely candidates, they added.

The former Congres president is the frontrunner for the Rajya Sabha seat from Himachal Pradesh that will fall vacant after BJP chief J.P. Nadda's tenure ends this April. Her name is also doing the rounds for a Rajasthan seat as former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure is about to end.

The Congress is yet to announce any candidate for the biennial elections for 56 seats from 15 States. It has to name candidates for seats from the States of Karnataka, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The last date for filing nominations is February 15.

The Congress is finalising seat-sharing talks with other like-minded parties, including DMK in Tamil Nadu, JMM in Jharkhand, RJD in Bihar and NCP and Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

Besides, sources said, Congress is in the final stages of talks with the National Conference, whose leader Farooq Abdullah has been summoned for questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case.

Bengal Governor visits Sandeshkhali, promises justice for women victims

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A tense situation persisted at Sandeshkhali as several women from the area on Monday approached the visiting Governor, C.V. Ananda Bose, with allegations of molestation by Trinamool Congress members.

The women alleged atrocities by the local Trinamool leadership, including the absconding Sheikh Sahajahan. They expressed fear of being subjected to "more torture" after the Governor left, if the local leaders were not arrested.

The women had also put up posters against the police. Some of them demanded the deployment of Central forces in the area.

"I am not here only as the Governor but also as your brother. It is the duty of the brother to ensure protection to sisters," Mr. Bose said. He had cut short his visit to Kerala and arrived in Kolkata on Monday, going straight to Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district.

Describing the developments in the remote island as "shameful", the Governor assured action against the perpetrators of atrocities. "We will ensure that honour and dignity of the women are restored and violators are brought to book," Mr. Bose told journalists at Sandeshkhali.

"What I saw was ghastly, shocking, shattering to my senses. I saw something which I should never have seen; I heard many things which I should never have heard," he said.

The West Bengal Police have set up a 10-member committee for the women to lodge their complaints.

Meanwhile, they ruled out any communal angle to the allegations.

Venting out: West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose meets a woman affected by the violence in Sandeshkhali, on Monday. ANI

6 BJP MLAs suspended

KOLKATA
Six MLAs of the BJP, including Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, were suspended from West Bengal Assembly on Monday for staging protests and demanding a statement by CM Mamata Banerjee on the Sandeshkhali issue.

BJP MLAs stopped
During the day, 67 MLAs of the BJP – led by Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari – were stopped on the way to Sandeshkhali.

They left the State Assembly in a bus but were stopped near Science City under the jurisdiction of Kolkata Police.

Two celebrity MPs among nine who missed opportunities to speak in LS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two of India's most voluble film stars, Sunny Deol and Shatrughan Sinha, who have made a name for themselves with high-octane dialogue delivery in movies, did not utter a single word in the outgoing Lok Sabha. In total, nine of the 543 members did not speak a word in Lok Sabha, six of whom are from the BJP and four of them belonging to Karnataka.

On mute: The Lok Sabha proceedings under way during the Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on February 10. ANI

Speaker's outreach
Speaker Om Birla had, as per sources, meticulously reached out to the members who had not had an opportunity to speak in Parliament. "The Speaker, for example, had approached Mr. Deol, at least twice, calling him over, extending special opportunity to him, to utilise the various opportunities offered including Zero Hour when any issue of national importance can be raised, to speak. But he could not be moved," a senior Parliamentary official said.

Mr. Deol represents Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency. Mr. Sinha was elected from Asansol seat in West Bengal in a bypoll in 2022 on a Trinamool ticket, after singer Babul Supriyo, who was elected from the seat on a BJP ticket, switched to the Trinamool Congress.

The other member from West Bengal is Dibyendu Adhikari (Tamluk Lok Sabha constituency). Mr. Adhikari is the younger brother of Suvendu Adhikari, the current Leader of Opposition in West Bengal State Assembly.

The four members from Karnataka who fall in this category include, B.N. Bache Gowda (Chikkaballapur), Anantkumar Hegde (Uttara Kannada), V. Sreenivasa Prasad (Chamrajanagar) and Ramesh C. Jigajinagi (Bijapur). All the four are from BJP.

BJP MP Pradhan Baruah elected from Lakhimpur in Assam and BSP's Atul Kumar Singh elected from Ghosi are the other two members in the list.

While six MPs have had at least written participation – by moving questions or making written special mention submission, three members – Mr. Jigajinagi, Mr. Singh and Mr. Sinha – have the distinction of making no contribution in written or oral form in Parliamentary proceedings. Mr. Jigajinagi has been unwell for a long time and Mr. Singh has been in jail for a significant part of the term.

Spoke to party MLAs, cadre on decision to join NDA: RLD chief

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) president Chaudhary Jayant Singh on Monday confirmed that his party will contest the upcoming Lok Sabha election with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Mr. Chaudhary said the decision was taken after consultation with the MLAs and party leaders.

"I talked with my MLAs and workers before taking the decision [joining the NDA]. It is not that we did this after a lot of planning or thinking for a long time. We had to decide in a short period due to circumstances. When the Bharat Ratna was conferred on [former Prime Minister] Chaudhary Charan Singh, we were pleased; this respect is not only for our family but also for the farmers, youth and poor across the country," said Mr. Singh, the grandson of the former Prime Minister, when asked by presspersons about some RLD MLAs being unhappy over the decision.

Jayant Chaudhary

The RLD chief made the announcement on the birth anniversary of party founder and his late father, Chaudhary Ajit Singh.

Will stop Modi juggernaut in Bihar: Tejashwi Yadav

RJD leader asks if the Prime Minister can guarantee that Nitish Kumar will not switch sides again; he comes down hard on the Chief Minister for snapping ties with the grand alliance in the State

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Hitting out: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and others after the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government won the trust vote in Assembly. PTI

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday came down hard on Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) leader Nitish Kumar for joining hands with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Launching a scathing attack on Mr. Kumar for snapping ties with the *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance), Mr. Yadav quoted the Chief Minister as saying "*Mann nahi lag raha tha* (was not liking it)" after tendering his resignation.

"We were not with you to sing and dance to entertain you, we had supported you to do work," Mr. Yadav said. The RJD and the Congress were part of the grand alliance.

The RJD leader said he had never witnessed a person taking oath as Chief Minister nine times, of which three were in a single term. Mr. Yadav also criticised BJP leader Vijay Kumar Sinha, saying that he too had made a new record of sorts by becoming Deputy Chief Minister, Speaker, and Leader of the Opposition in the same term.

'Respectable person'

He compared Mr. Kumar to King Dashrath (father of Lord Ram) and warned him to be aware of the "Kaikeyi" in his fold.

"Nitish*ji* was always a respectable person for me and will remain respectable in future as well. Many times, he used to tell me that I was like his son, and I too respected him as my guardian. I used to respect him like King Dashrath who always promoted me. There must be some compulsion the way Dashrath had in form of Kaikeyi due to which he deserted us. You should be aware to find who is Kaikeyi in your team," Mr. Yadav said.

He stressed that the people of Bihar wanted to know the reason for the frequent flip-flops.

"When you had snapped ties with the BJP you said that you will prefer to die rather than be with the BJP. You had also said that you are not interested in becoming Prime Minister and your only goal was to unite Opposition to defeat the dictatorship government of the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha poll," Mr. Yadav said.

The RJD leader said the BJP MLAs always make big claims about "Modi *ki* guarantee" and asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi can guarantee that Mr. Kumar would not make another U-turn.

Mr. Yadav said he would now stop the juggernaut of Mr. Modi in Bihar.

Mr. Yadav hit back at the Chief Minister for saying that he took credit for the developmental work in the State.

"What was wrong in taking credit for the work as being the largest partner in the alliance? Will BJP not take the credit if they did any work in the government?" Mr. Yadav said.

"The BJP talks about Hindu Rashtra. Seventy-four per cent are not getting anything, poor from the general castes are not getting anything. You tell me, at the Ram Mandir inauguration, did you see any poor, even one," he asked.

They have been left to starve; they have conceded defeat, Mr. Gandhi said.

On the draw

MIKA AZIZ

Kejriwal, Mann visit Ram Temple

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart, Bhagwant Mann, visited the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Monday.

"I had the divine darshan of Ramlala at the Ram Temple today with my parents and wife. Bhagwant*ji* and his family were also present. Together, we prayed for the progress of the country and the welfare of all humanity," Mr. Kejriwal said on X.

Ashok Chavan quits Cong., may join BJP

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan resigned from the Congress on Monday, ending his family's long-standing association with the party.

The move comes amid growing speculation over his intention to switch allegiance to the BJP.

He, along with a few Congress MLAs, is likely to join the BJP in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah later this week.

Ashok Chavan

However, Mr. Chavan said he had not decided to join any party yet. "The decision to quit the Congress is a personal one. I will clear my stand on joining a party after 48 hours," he said, adding that he was not in touch with any MLAs of the Congress.

This comes days after senior State Congress leaders Milind Deora and Baba Siddique quit the party to join the ruling alliance.

Mr. Chavan submitted his resignation to Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee chief Nana Patole. Later, he met Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar and tendered his resignation from the House.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior BJP leader confirmed that he will join the party, bringing along a group of supporters from the Marathwada region.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, without naming Mr. Chavan, said that an exit by betrayers "opens up vast new opportunities to those whose growth they have always stunted".

80% of people have not benefited from BJP rule, says Rahul

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Criticising the BJP's focus on religious symbolism, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Monday that while the ruling party spoke of "Hindu Rashtra", nearly 80% of the population had not benefited from its rule.

Addressing the public in Korba, Chhattisgarh during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Mr. Gandhi said the marginalised and backward classes who formed 74% of the population as well as the poor from the general castes who accounted for another four to five percent were being denied opportunities under the current regime.

He questioned the absence of these groups at the Ram Temple inauguration ceremony in Ayodhya, contrasting it with the presence of the rich and the influential people.

Cong. cuts short yatra in U.P., cites Board exams

LUCKNOW

The Congress on Monday announced its decision to reduce the duration of Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Uttar Pradesh in view of the Board exams for Classes 10 and 12. The yatra will now skip most of western U.P. It will enter State on February 16 and exit on February 21.

Will build police station on recovered land in Haldwani: CM

Ishita Mishra
HALDWANI

Days after the violence in Uttarakhand's Haldwani over the demolition of an allegedly "illegally built" madrasa and mosque that left five persons dead, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday said a police station would be built on the land "freed from encroachment".

In another development, the Haldwani Municipal Corporation served a recovery notice to Abdul Malik, the owner of the madrasa and mosque at Banbhoolpura demolished by the administration on February 8, demanding ₹2.44 crore in damages. The notice issued by the Haldwani Municipal Corporation stated that Mr. Malik, who the police say is mastermind of the violence, has to deposit the amount to the civic body within three days (February 15). He has been fined for damage to vehicles including tractors, goods carriers, etc., and equipment such as helmets and crowbars.

The Haldwani civic body served a recovery notice to Abdul Malik, the alleged mastermind

"After our teams demolished the structures built by you illegally on government land and were returning back, your supporters engaged in arson and damaged/destroyed/looted properties of the Municipal Corporation and caused loss to government property. Pay the amount within the due date or the amount will be recovered as per the law," the notice issued to Mr. Malik, who has been arrested, states.

Speaking at a rally in Haridwar, Mr. Dhami said the government wants to send a clear message to anarchist elements that those who try to disturb the peace of "*Devbhoomi*" (Land of Gods) will not be spared. "There was a garden in Banbhoolpura which was encroached upon. That encroachment has been removed and several acres of land was recovered," said Mr. Dhami.

"From the banks of the mighty river Ganga, I announce that a police station will be built at that place," Mr. Dhami said.

Meanwhile, the police also suspended arms licences of 127 persons of Banbhoolpura to avoid the misuse of the weapons in case of any untoward situation.

'Normalcy returning'

With Haldwani city showing signs of returning to normalcy, the district administration and the police conducted a peace meeting with representatives of all communities. People demanded relaxation of the curfew in Banbhoolpura too but District Magistrate (DM) Vandana Singh said the administration will assess the law and order situation before announcing any relaxation.

Markets and educational institutions in the city opened on Monday while curfew was lifted in the rest of Haldwani late on Saturday. People were seen crowding food joints and parks as businesses operated as usual.

Court extends ED remand of Hemant Soren by three days

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

A special PMLA court on Monday extended the Enforcement Directorate (ED) remand of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren by three days in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam, lawyers said.

Mr. Soren, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) executive president, was on February 7 remanded to five days of ED custody by the special PMLA (the Prevention of Money Laundering Act) court.

He was arrested on January 31 after a seven-hour grilling by the Central investigative agency in the money laundering case.

He resigned as the Jharkhand Chief Minister before the arrest.

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-Tender Extension Notice
O/o the Executive Engineer, PMU, Electrical Circle, Kattakada, Thiruvananthapuram
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB _644852_1, PAC : 4,50,15,405/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB _645254_1, PAC : 3,81,02,382/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Kattakada, Thiruvananthapuram
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_646488_1, PAC : 7,57,96,749/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_646613_1, PAC : 14,98,90,484/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_646661_1, PAC : 13,59,48,182/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_647825_1, PAC : 2,35,84,878/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_647319_1, PAC : 10,48,00,222/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_648185_1, PAC : 7,16,74,124/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
O/o the Chief Engineer, Distribution (South), Power House, Thiruvananthapuram
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_644705_1, PAC : 2658.7 lakhs, Last Date - 22.02.2024 05.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_645766_1, PAC : 2716.62 lakhs, Last Date - 22.02.2024 05.00pm
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Shoranur, Palakkad
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_643403_1, PAC : 6,12,18,944/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_644755_1, PAC : 13,34,18,709/-, Last Date - 22.02.2024 03.00pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref : PR/MC1/E467/E-tender/2024

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUT SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA
Tender Notification No.610001477
APGENCO invites open tender for Carrying out the Operation of the total Ash Handling System (excluding Bottom Ash, Coarse Ash Operation) and Mechanical Maintenance, Preventive Maintenance, Emergency & Break down Maintenance, Electrical, C&I works of complete Ash Handling System of 1x600 MW Unit for the period from **01.04.2024** or from the date of actual commencement of work to **31.03.2025** for Dr.MVR RTPP/ Stage-IV through APGENCO e-procurement platform.
Schedule available date & time: **From 09.02.2024 @ 21.00 onwards.** Bid submission closing date & time: **13.00 Hrs on 23.02.2024**. For other details vist website, viz **www.apgenco.gov.in** (or) **https://etender.apgenco.gov.in/irj/portal**
DIPR 2701PP/CL, Dt.12/02/2024

LOOK OUT NOTICE

Sri. Sajan, S/o Varghese, Age-40, Vilakkezhath House, Eramalloor PO, Ezhupunna Panchayath Ward-2, Cherthala, Alappuzha District who is the accused in Cr. 06/2024, U/s 324,307 IPC of Aroor Police Station, Cherthala. He is absconding after the commission of the crime. If any clue or information is obtained about him that may be intimated immediately to Aroor Police station ISHO, Deputy Superintendent of Police Cherthala, & District Police Chief Alappuzha.
Inspector of Police, Aroor PS - 9497980266
DySP, Cherthala - 9497990042
District Police Chief, Alappuzha - 9497996982
50/F2/2024/I&PRD

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : Re-Tender No 248 to 253/2023-24/ SE/PHC/ALP KIIFB - Kuttanad Drinking Water Project Package 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 Construction of OHSR and distribution network at Muttar, Veliyanad, Neelamperur, Pulingunn, Kavalam, Ramankari, Champakulam, Nedumudi, Kainkari, Veeyapuram, Ethwa Construction of staff quarters and office building. **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs.9,759/- and Rs.19,518/-, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 22-02-2024, 02:00 pm, **Phone :** 0477 - 2237954.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-2323-2023-24 **PH circle, Alappuzha**

BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AKASH SHOVA BUILDING, SACHIVALAYA MARG, BHUBANESWAR - 751001
PABX No.0674-2392801 / 0998 / 6437. FAX No. 0674-2390633 / 085
Visit us at : *http://www.bda.gov.in /*
Invitation For Bids
Bid Identification No.259/EM/BDA/2023-24 **Date: 12/02/2024**
Engineer Member, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for civil works as mentioned below :

1.	Nature of Works	: Civil Work (Development of Idle bus parking area over plot no.200, Baramunda)
2.	Total No. of works	: 01 (one) No.
3.	Amount put to tender	: 603.14 Lakh
4.	Class of Contractor	: 'A' & 'Special' Class
5.	Period of Completion	: 04 (Four) Calendar months
6.	Cost of Bid Documents	: Rs.10000.00 + 18% GST=Rs.11800.00 (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)
7.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	: 1% of estimated cost put to tender (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)
8.	Availability of Tender	: From 16.02.2024 to 5.30 PM of 01.03.2024 https://tendersodisha.gov.in
9.	Date of opening of Tender	: Dt.02.03.2024 at 11.30 AM
10.	Place of opening of Tender	: O/o - Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / Corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.
CAD-4117 : OIPR-13033/11/0636/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR.
e-Mail ID- acephcbam@gmail.com
1st CORRIGENDUM TO INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT to Identification No.ACEPHCBAM 07/2023-24 Dt.05.02.2024
The estimated cost (Rs in lakhs) at serial No.3 column No.4 for the work "External power supply with pumping arrangements at intake well, WTP & MBRs including 5 yrs operation and maintenance in connection with for the "Improvement to water supply to Rambha NAC under AMRUT 2.0 (Swap-II)", vide Bid Id No. ACEPHCBAM 07/2023-24 Dt.05.02.2024, may be read as **Rs.334.26 lakhs** instead of **Rs.432.12 lakhs** .
All the bidders need to go through this Corrigendum properly.
All other terms & conditions remain unaltered.
The technical bid shall be opened on **Dt.02.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.**
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal **http://tendersodisha.gov.in**
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PH)
C-3055 : OIPR-13004/11/0013/2324

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
TenderNo: Re-e-TenderNo.242to247/2023-24/SE/PHC/ALPKIFB-Alappuzha Municipality - Upgradation of water supply system, Aryad, Mannancherry. Mararikulam South Panchayats - Balance Works - Package 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 Alappuzha Municipality - Pipeline Work, **EMD :** Rs. 500000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 19518/-, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 16-02-2024, 02:00 pm, **Phone :** 0477 - 2237954.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-2322-2023-24 **PH circle, Alappuzha**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
E-Tender Enq. No. 514/P-2/EMP-W- 12570 Dtd 08.02.24 Dy. Chief Engineer / Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_117148_1 for Complete rewinding/ re-staggering of stator of 01 no. of 4000KW/1485, 6.6KV HT motors of BFP-5A GGSSTP, Rupnagar
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 09.02.24 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP - 22/24 **76155/12/2691/2023/32333**

Ph. No. 06670-235504; E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA.
Bid Identification No.:- BPT/Online-50/2023-24 Date: 07.02.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement

1.	Name of the Work	: Construction of Road Chachiguda to Malgundi via Kuchagaon under Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) for the year 2022-23 in the District of Kalahandi.
2.	No of Works	: 01 No.
3.	Location details	: Kalahandi District
4.	Estimated Cost	: As per NIT
5.	Period of Completion	: As per NIT.
6.	Cost of tender paper	: Rs.10,000/- per set
7.	Other details	:

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
15.02.2024 11.00 A.M.	28.02.2024 5.00 P.M.	27.02.2024	29.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site **"www.tendersorissa.gov.in"**
Chief Construction Engineer
O-2414: OIPR-25102/11/0067/2324

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number-9646117606)
Tender Inquiry No. 37/MM-I/TGP/O&M/GHTP/2024
Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Mtc. Circle-I/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work of "Routine, Preventive, Breakdown Maintenance and overhauling jobs (Mechanical jobs) of Boiler Feed pumps, Condensate Extraction Pumps, CW Pumps, Vacuum Pumps, Turbine Aux. Cooling Water Pumps, BACW Pumps, Boiler fill Pumps, Hotwell Make Up Pumps, Stator Water Make Up Pumps, ACW Pumps, SGDMCW Pumps, TGDMCW Pumps, TG Cycle Make Up Pumps etc. of 2X210MW and 2X250MW Units of Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant (GHTP), Lehra Mohabbat on Lump sum basis for a period of one year". For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 09-02-2024 from 17:00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GHTP-10/24 **76155/12/2693/2023/32340**

INBRIEF

SC extends interim bail granted to Minister's son

The Supreme Court on Monday extended the interim bail granted to Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son, Ashish Mishra, in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, which claimed eight lives. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and K. V. Viswanathan directed the top court registry to obtain a report from the trial court on the progress of the case and adjourned the matter. On September 26, 2023, the SC had relaxed the bail conditions of Mishra to enable him to look after his mother and for the treatment of his daughter. The case pertains to an incident of violence on October 3, 2021 at Tikunia in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh. PTI

NCB busts international drug cartel, arrests nine accused

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted an international drug cartel having links in and around Delhi, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Dubai. Among those involved were Indian, Mexican, Canadian, and British nationals. The agency has arrested nine persons, including three alleged Mexican Meth chemists. Based on a tip-off, its Delhi zonal unit had seized about 2.95 kg of methamphetamine at DHL on January 17. "During further course of investigation, two consignors of the parcel were apprehended from Jaipur. The arrested persons disclosed that they collected Meth from a Delhi-based trafficker on a regular basis and used to send the parcels to Australia, as per the direction of their handler," said the agency on Monday.

Hygiene, sanitation rating system for hotels, resorts, homestays yet to take off

States silent on Swachhata Green Leaf Rating, which was launched in November last year by the Union Tourism Ministry; Centre exploring ways to incentivise scheme to encourage participation

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

A government-initiated rating system for the hospitality sector, aimed at ensuring world-class hygiene and sanitation at hotels, resorts, and homestays, has become a non-starter, with no State opting for it so far.

Barring a pilot project in Jammu and Kashmir, there has been no response from the States or the Union Territories despite the Union Tourism Ministry sending three communiques so far, the last one being in the first week of February, sources said.

The ranking scheme – Swachhata Green Leaf Rating – was launched in November last year by the Union Tourism Ministry in collaboration with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

As part of the initiative, the State teams of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (rural) and the Tourism Department are to organise workshops on the concept, process, and desired outcomes for the stakeholders. Owners and operators of the lodging services are encouraged to adopt good practices for improved and safe sanitation facilities, faecal sludge management, segregation of solid waste at sources, and promotion of alternatives to single-use plastic.

The rating system envisions to voluntarily engage the hospitality sector and contribute to sustainable tourism practices in India. PTI

Safe sanitation

According to the concept paper of the scheme, it is proposed to launch the Swacchta Green Leaf Rating system at all hospitality facilities in the country with or without restaurants.

The target groups are hotels, lodges, homestays, *dharamshalas,* and camps which have portable toilets. The rating will be based on compliance with the safe sanitation practices outlined in the guidelines.

The objective is to prevent pollution in water-bodies and keep the environment clean.

"We envision this rating system which is sought to be achieved through public participation to voluntarily engage the hospitality sector and contribute to cleaner and more sustainable tourism practices in India," the vision statement of the document read.

A senior official of the Tourism Ministry told *The Hindu* that the government was exploring possibilities to incentivise the scheme at some point to encourage participation.

Rural areas

The official said that efforts would be made to focus on the rural areas, where hospitality units such as homestays, bed and breakfast facilities, small restaurants, and tea shops would be made aware of the scheme. They will also be helped with low-cost technologies.

A three-tiered committee system has been proposed for the implementation of the scheme, beginning with a Verification Sub-Committee formed by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate for on-ground verification, followed by a District Committee, which the District Collector will chair, and then a State-level committee, headed by the Chief Secretary.

SC extends interim stay in investigation against ED officer

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu government seeks time to file response to a petition filed by the ED against the State.

The Supreme Court on Monday extended its stay order of criminal proceedings by the Tamil Nadu Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) against Enforcement Directorate (ED) officer Ankit Tiwari in a graft case.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant ordered the interim relief to continue even as Tamil Nadu government sought time to file a response to a petition filed by the ED against the State.

The Central agency has challenged the proceedings against Mr. Tiwari. It has argued that the action against Mr. Tiwari, an ED officer in Tamil Nadu, was a tit-for-tat by the State for money laundering and corruption cases lodged by Central agencies against Ministers and ensuing raids on them. It has sought a transfer of the case from DVAC.

Tamil Nadu, represented by Additional Advocate-General Amit Anand Tiwari, has stated that Mr. Tiwari was caught red-handed accepting a bribe of ₹20 lakh from a doctor in Dindigul district.

On January 25, the top court had stayed both the DVAC and the ED from probing the case against Mr. Tiwari. The Bench had directed the material collected so far in the investigation to be placed on record before it.

On Monday, Mr. Tiwari sought two weeks for Tamil Nadu to file a response to the ED petition.

On January 25, the top court had suggested a mechanism to screen if political vendetta or vindictiveness was not the actual reason behind Centre unleashing the ED on officials and Ministers in non-BJP-ruled States.

"We should explore a fair and transparent mechanism or a body which will look into the inter-State ramifications and keep intact the object of punishing the guilty while preventing vindictive arrests," Justice K.B. Viswanathan, on the Bench, had proposed in the previous hearing.

Press bodies condemn attack on journalist

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India and the Indian Women's Press Corps on Monday demanded action against those involved in the attack on senior journalist Nikhil Wagle allegedly by the members of a political party in Maharashtra's Pune on February 9. They also sought withdrawal of criminal charges against the journalist.

"We appeal that the draconian charges against Mr. Wagle for promoting enmity, mischief, and defamation be dropped and urge the Maharashtra government to ensure that the perpetrators of violence are sent a strong message. No one should be allowed to get away with violence," they said in a statement.

Appointing Deputy CMs not a breach of Constitution: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition challenging the appointment of Deputy Chief Ministers in States on the ground that no such position exists in the Constitution.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud found no harm in the appointment of Deputy Chief Ministers, reasoning that they were after all Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) of the States and Ministers of State governments.

"Deputy CM's are first and foremost Ministers in the government of the State. A person who holds the office of the Deputy Chief Minister must at any event, within a stipulated period, be an MLA. Such appointments do not breach the Constitution," the CJI observed.

He said that these persons appointed did not draw a higher salary and were like any other Minister in the government

But the petitioner, Public Political Party, said the appointments of Deputy CM's were motivated by religion and sectarian considerations.

The petitioner argued that such appointments were against Article 14 (right to equality) and the tenet of Article 15 which holds that the State ought not to discriminate on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. However, the court dismissed the petition, saying it lacked substance.

A cafe of opportunities opens in Kolkata

The eatery is operated by 16 young adults who have either grown up in rescue homes or have intellectual disabilities; to attract patrons, the cafe plans to hold open mic events, art exhibitions

Bishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

On the face of it, 'Opportunity Cafe' could pass off as yet another eatery in a city that loves food, but the place is one of its kind, considering it is run by young people who otherwise rarely get to join the social mainstream.

Young adults who have intellectual disabilities or have grown up in rescue homes are the ones responsible for the functioning of this non-profit cafe that opened last month on Dum Dum Road.

"The most satisfying part so far of setting up this cafe was the six months of rigorous training before the inauguration. Our society usually believe or are rather made to believe, that children with disabilities are not capable of doing anything. But I've seen these young adults transform during the training. One of the boys never spoke, but is now able to talk," Sidhant Ghosh, founder-secretary of the Rescue and Relief Foundation, and the person behind the cafe, said.

New world: Opportunity Cafe was opened last month on Dum Dum Road in Kolkata. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

There are 16 young adults who are running Opportunity Cafe. Nine of them – six men and three women – are affected by conditions such as autism and Down's Syndrome, and are either orphans or come from poor families. Of the seven others, five belong to a foundation-run home that shelters girls rescued from trafficking, and two are children of sex workers.

"Those with mental disabilities have no idea what it means to earn money – they are working for the joy of what they are doing, and that in turn gives us a lot of joy," Mr. Ghosh said. "They are the chefs, they are the waiters, they also clean up – they run the entire place."

"Our entire income will go towards empowering the young people who benefit from the foundation," he said.

To attract patrons, the cafe plans to hold open mic events, art exhibitions, and workshops.

Plans to curb evangelism, polygamy in Assam: CM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said his government wants to curb evangelism in the State apart from aligning a proposed anti-polygamy law with Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

On February 10, the Cabinet approved the Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024, to address the issue of fraudulent magical healing practices in the name of treatment. "We want to curb evangelism and in this regard, the ban of healing is a key step," he said.

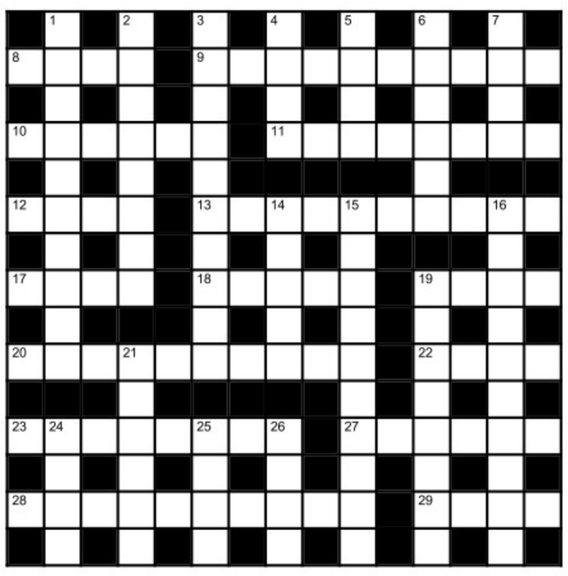
"The UCC is about banning polygamy and making it a civil offence. We are thinking of making it a criminal offence," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14096

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Temper of snubbed old kid (4)
9 All of evil and no suffering? What Cupid makes us do! (4,2,4)
10 Shy cop's unstable, disturbed man (6)
11 Leader's confused! Right time for warning! (3,5)
12 Sensible wife is source of enlightenment (4)
13 Men chatted about disconnect (10)
17 Tell tales about fellow human (4)
18 Source of black soil, as stated (5)
19 Very universal source of life (4)
20 Singer! Entice her completely! (10)
22 Fix in a crooked line (4)
23 Follow large abandoned plane for aerial combat (8)
27 Nothing hot instead of a sweet (6)
28 Cocaine molecule in short can be efficient (10)
29 Working continuously! Lying around is undesirable! (4)

Down

1 So, it's a lilt composed about 21st of June? (10)
2 Be around! Side-kick will get bruise on the face! (8)
3 Modest comrade oddly seen in friendly surrounding (10)
4 Almost certain about Left's disgrace (4)
5 Tamil defines, encapsulates light (4)
6 Love small chaotic obstacle race (6)
7 More than complete (4)
14 Some adult or child showing light (5)
15 About only three schooled in logical manner (10)
16 Number one in mad rush wings naked! That is wholesome! (10)
19 No end to anguish! Starts anew at heart! Becomes cheerful! (8)
21 Not the extreme hurt (6)
24 Timelessly feel sound of pain (4)
25 Invested millions for Thailand's opening match (4)
26 Thank you to company providing a crunchy snack (4)

SUDOKU

8	5							6
			6	2			9	5
				9	1			
	6		8			2		
	3		7		2		1	
		4			6		7	
			1	7				
7	2			6	5			
1							5	7

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	3	1	4	7	6	9	8	2
6	4	2	8	5	9	7	3	1
8	7	9	3	2	1	6	4	5
2	5	4	6	9	8	3	1	7
3	9	6	7	1	4	2	5	8
1	8	7	5	3	2	4	9	6
4	6	3	2	8	5	1	7	9
9	2	8	1	4	7	5	6	3
7	1	5	9	6	3	8	2	4

FAITH

Vasant Panchami

In his Saraswati Vandana poem, Suryakant Tripthi Nirala says, "O mother tear apart the shackles of darkness in our heart And let a river of light flow absorbing differences and darkness". This is very relevant at the onset of Vasant Panchami, a festival with immense religious and social significance in our society, said Prof. Kumool Abbi in a lecture.

It is the festival of Saraswati puja in West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Odisha and Bihar and many other places. Goddess Saraswati is the embodiment of knowledge, art , music, aesthetics and harmony. In the Shanti Parv in the epic Mahabharata, she is called the mother of the Vedas. The effulgent Saraswati illumines and removes nescience and darkenss. Vasant Panchami is commemorated on the Magh Sud, that is the fifth day of the bright lunar fortnight (Sukla paksham) of the month Magha in the lunisolar calendar.

In many parts, Vasant Panchami heralds the end of winter and the beginning of spring. It signifies a preparation for Holi and a readiness for the harvesting of crops. This is when yellow mustard flowers are in full bloom. The occasion is celebrated with sounds of dhol, the pulsating bhangra, flying of colourful kites, the making of yellow rice and wearing yellow coloured clothes.

KYIV

Kremlin, Musk deny Ukraine claim of Russian Army's use of Starlink

REUTERS

The Kremlin on Monday rejected Ukraine's claims that Russian troops fighting on the frontline were using Starlink terminals. Starlink, owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, is a network of satellites in low Earth orbit that can provide Internet to remote locations, or areas whose normal communications infrastructure is disabled. AFP

LONDON

U.K.'s Rwanda plan is incompatible with rights obligations, say MPs

AFP

The U.K. government's latest legislation to revive its controversial plan to send migrants to Rwanda is "not compatible" with the country's rights obligations, a watchdog panel of British lawmakers said on Monday. The British parliament's own Joint Committee on Human Rights said in a new report that it had various concerns. AFP

DUBAI

Houthis fire missiles at ship bound for Iran, the rebels' main supporter

REUTERS

Yemen's Houthi rebels fired two missiles at a ship bound for a port in Iran on Monday, causing minor damage but no injuries to its crew. The attack on the Marshall Islands-flagged, Greek-operated bulk carrier *Star Iris* shows just how widely the Houthis now target ships travelling through the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden. AFP

WASHINGTON

Hospitalised Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin hands duties to deputy

REUTERS

U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin was admitted to a critical care ward with a bladder issue after he transferred his duties to his deputy Kathleen Hicks on Sunday, the Pentagon said, as he battles prostate cancer. The latest health scare came weeks after it emerged that Austin, 70, had kept previous hospital stays secret. AFP

Political parties in Pakistan wrangle over premiership

Talks between PML-N and PPP reach nowhere as both parties want their candidate for top job; Shehbaz Sharif and Bhutto Zardari are being touted as PM-contenders by both parties

Reuters
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's two largest political parties were on Monday wrangling over who will be Prime Minister after an inconclusive election last week forced them to join forces and try to form a coalition in a parliament dominated by independents.

Former Prime Ministers Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif both declared victory on Friday, with independent candidates backed by the jailed Mr. Khan forming the largest group of 93 members of a total of 264 seats for which results were declared.

Obstacle course: Supporters of Imran Khan block a motorway as part of their protest against alleged poll rigging on Monday. REUTERS

However, Mr. Khan cannot become Prime Minister from jail and his grouping cannot form a government as they nominally ran as independents as his party was barred from standing.

Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was the largest recognised party with 75 seats and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of assassinated former premier Benazir Bhutto, was second with 54.

The two parties opened formal talks late on Sunday to form a coalition government. PML-N and PPP officials, however, said their talks were snagged over which leader would take the top job. However, a PML-N source said it was "most likely" that Shehbaz Sharif, 72, who held the post for 16 months until August, will be chosen.

The PPP has always maintained Bhutto Zardari as its political scion, and if successful, the former Foreign Minister will become Pakistan's youngest premier since his mother Benazir.

67 Palestinians killed, two Israelis rescued in Gaza raid

Associated Press
RAFAH

Israeli forces rescued two hostages early on Monday, storming a heavily guarded apartment in a densely packed town in the Gaza Strip and extracting them under fire and covering airstrikes that local officials said killed at least 67 Palestinians.

Israeli military spokesman Read Adm. Daniel Hagari said special forces broke into a second-floor apartment in Rafah under fire at 1:49 a.m. on Monday, accompanied a minute later by airstrikes on surrounding areas. He said Hamas militants were guarding the captives and that members of the rescue team shielded the hostages with their bodies as the battle erupted.

Mourners react following the death of Palestinians in Israeli strikes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Monday. REUTERS

The plight of the hostages has profoundly shaken Israelis, and the rescue in Rafah briefly lifted the spirits of a nation still reeling from Hamas' cross-border raid last year that started the war.

Israel has described Rafah – a city on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip where 1.4 million Palestinians have fled fighting elsewhere – as the last remaining Hamas stronghold in the territory and signaled that its ground offensive may soon target the city.

In Gaza, the operation unleashed another tragedy in a war that has killed 28,340 Palestinians in the territory, displaced over 80% of the population and set off a massive humanitarian crisis.

Stop delivery of F-35 parts to Israel, says Dutch court

Associated Press
THE HAGUE

The Netherlands must stop delivering parts for F-35 fighter jets used by Israel in the Gaza Strip after a Dutch court on Monday ruled there was a "clear risk" the planes would be involved in breaking international humanitarian law.

The Appeals Court in The Hague sided with a group of human rights organisations that argued the parts contributed to violations of law. "The court therefore orders the State to put an end to the further export oto Israel within 7 days". The U.S.-owned F-35 parts are stored at a warehouse in the Netherlands and shipped to several partners, via existing export agreements.

Maldives parliament votes to postpone general election

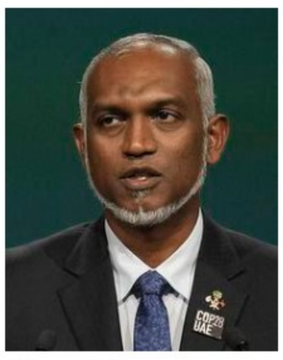
Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The Maldives's parliamentary election, which was scheduled for March 17 this year, is set to be postponed after the legislature voted to defer the polls, citing the Ramadan month.

The People's Majlis or parliament on Sunday voted for the amendment to the country's General Elections Act to commence the parliamentary election ten days after the month of religious significance in the Sunni Muslim nation.

The opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and its breakaway, The Democrats, together backed the amendment, citing concerns over a possible drop in voter turnout during the month of fasting and prayer from March 10, 2024, to April 9, 2024.

According to local media reports, MDP legislator Mohamed Shifau proposed the amendment, which was approved with 46 votes in the now 80-member House. Most government MPs abstained from voting, Male-based publication *The Edition* reported.



Mohamed Muizzu

ing, in *The Edition*.

Meanwhile, the MDP has had to put its earlier pledge, to impeach President Mohamed Muizzu, on hold after the government moved the Supreme Court on the matter.

Muizzu's impeachment

The MDP had based its decision to impeach the incumbent on his foreign policy moves "putting the Indian Ocean Region in danger", and his "attempts to curtail" the legislature.

The MDP, which has 42 seats in the 80-member People's Majlis, joined forces with The Democrats – with 13 seats – and was confident of its numbers. However, the top court suspended a recent amendment to the standing orders that permitted vacant seats from being included while counting total votes.

Although the development gave some political reprieve to President Muizzu, his government faces major economic challenges. In its recent report, the International Monetary Fund noted that the Maldives is at high risk of debt distress. More recently, the country's Inland Revenue Authority flagged a significant shortfall in government revenue.

Constitutional validity

However, the development has raised questions over the constitutional validity of postponing the elections to mid-April. Speaking to media persons in Male on Sunday, a senior official of the Election Commission of Maldives raised concern over this.

"When the Bill says 10 days after Ramadan, that barely allows us enough time to complete the exercise within the 30 days stipulated in the Constitution," he was quoted as say-

Unionist party pushes back against Irish unity referendum

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Northern Ireland pushed back against the assertion of Irish republicans from Sinn Fein that Northern Ireland would have a referendum on reunification with the Republic of Ireland before 2030.

"Well, look, how would you expect Sinn Fein to react to a document that says 'Safeguarding the Union' and is coloured red, white and blue?" DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson told the foreign press in London as he held up a copy of the agreement with the U.K. government, whose cover had the same colour scheme as the Union Jack.

Following its publication on January 31, the DUP agreed to enter into a power-sharing agreement with Sinn Fein to govern Northern Ireland, bringing the devolved government back to life after two years. The DUP had quit the arrangement in 2022, unhappy with post-Brexit trading arrangements between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K.

The new government, which came together on February 3, is led by the politically equal posts of First Minister (Sinn Fein's Michelle O'Neill) and Deputy First Minister (the DUP's Emma Little-Pengelly) .

"Of course they're going to talk about United Ireland to reassure their base," Mr. Donaldson said, pointing out that Sinn Fein, while being the largest party in Northern Ireland, gets less than 30% of the vote. In the last elections for the Assembly or Stormont, Sinn Fein beat the DUP by two seats to get 27 seats with a 29% vote-share as opposed to the DUP's 21.3%.

Mr. Donaldson, whose DUP party is unionist, or wants to be part of the U.K., said the U.K. offered a "far more inclusive" context than a united Ireland could and that consistently it was only 30% of those surveyed in polls who were for Irish unification.

Survey results

A December 2022 Ipsos poll for the *Irish Times* showed 27% of Northern Irelanders surveyed wanted to be part of a united Ireland, while 66% of those surveyed in Ireland wanted Northern Ireland to join their country.

The 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which brought peace to the island of Ireland after three decades of violent struggle, mandates that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, a British functionary, will call for a 'border poll' on Irish reunification if it is "likely" that the majority of those voting would vote for a united Ireland.

Sinn Fein, formerly the political wing of the militant Irish Republican Army (IRA), has been polling ahead of other parties in Ireland. However, its lead dipped to a three year low (28%) in an *Irish Times*/Ipsos poll last week. "Challenge is something I embrace," Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald said last week in London, as she acknowledged her party would reflect on the poll numbers and work harder.

Mr. Donaldson said he believed Northern Ireland would still be part of the U.K. in 25 years.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Sowmyashree Rai, D/o. Sri. Narayana Rai has intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners 1) Sri. Raghuveera.R, S/o. Sri. Rangappa and his wife Smt. Mamta Kumari, residing at No. 205, 2nd Floor, Sri. Nandi Residency, Kodichikkanahalli, Bangalore-560076.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

3-BHK apartment Flat bearing No. CT-02 in the 3rd Floor of 'C'-Block having 1410 Sq. Ft. of SBA in the Apartment building known as "S .R. FLOORA" together with one covered car parking slot No. CT-02 in the stilt/basement Floor along with 394 Sq. Ft. of UDS in the converted bearing No. Sy. Nos. 237/1 and 237/2, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the :
East by : Corridor and flat No.CT-01,
West by : swimming pool and set back,
North by : Set Back and A Block,
South by : Duct.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-68, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 12-02-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Smt Amba Gowda @ Ambha M,** W/o Sri H Lakshminarayana Gowda D/o Sri Masthi Ramanna, Residing at #14, 6th Cross, Manjunathanagar Rajajinagar Bangalore 560 010. Would LIKE TO INFORM THE General Public that the **ORIGINAL SALE DEED/AUCTION SALE DEED,** related to site No 200, new municipal No 15, PID No 22-86-15, in the layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority. Situated at 68th Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar BBMP old ward No 22, now new ward no 108, Bearing Document no BDA-1-09934/2005-06, Book-1, stored in C D No.BDAD106 dated 16.02.2006 Registered in the office of Additional District registrar Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore IS LOST An FIR for the same has been lodged on 09.02.2024, bearing lost report no 0924845/2024 Public are informed that the finder/s of the above document are requested to hand over the same to undersigned and General Public are also warned to not enter into any transaction based on the lost document and any transaction will not binding on my client If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore side mentioned document, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **14 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims

SCHEDULE:

All the piece and parcel of the **site No 200**, new municipal No 15, PID No 22-86-15, in the layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority Situated at **68th Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar** BBMP old ward No 22, now new ward no 108, Measuring East to West 40-6 feet and North to South 37 feet, in all measuring **1489 square feet** and bounded on :
East By: Road, West By: Site No 201, North By: Road, South By: Site No. 171

B. Shubhakar BA LL.B., Advocate
#601, Old Police Station Road,
Next to Srinivasa poly clinic,
Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore 560036
Mobile: + 91 9448950488,
email : shubhakar14@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the owners of immovable properties bearing : **(i) Survey No. 60/1, measuring 02 Acres; and (ii) Survey No. 60/17, measuring 05 Acres 33 Guntas, both situated at Hebbagodi Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District (Properties)** have misplaced the original documents in connection with the Properties listed below **(Original Documents)**

(I) Sale Deed Dated 26-07-1956 (Registered as Document No. 1737/1956-57, Book-I, Volume No. 770, at Pages 248 to 249, at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal) executed by **Mr. V. N. Vishwanath, Son of Mr. V. Namashivayi Shetty** and another in favour of **Mr. Chinnappa, Son of Mr. Papaiah.**

(ii) Sale Deed Dated 18-08-1969 (Registered as Document No. 1624/1969-70, Book-I, Volume No. 1084, at Pages 108 to 110, at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal) executed by **Mr. Chinnappa, Son of Mr. Papaiah** and others in favour of **Mr. M. Anantharamaiah, Son of Mr. Ramakrishna Sastri;** and

(iii) Sale Deed Dated 28-01-1957 (Registered as Document No. 2567/1956-57, Book-I, Volume No. 779, at Pages 10 to 11, at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal) executed by **Mr. V. N. Vishwanath, Son of Mr. V. Namashivayi Shetty** and another in favour of **Mr. Pedappaiah, Son of Mr. Gurappa.**

Despite best efforts, the Owners are unable to trace the aforementioned Original Documents for which a Police Complaint intimating the loss of the Original Documents has been filed with **Bengaluru City Police Station, vide Lost Report No. 0921720/2024 Dated 07-02-2024.**

Members of the public are hereby notified that in the event any person/s has / have found / discovered / is in custody of the Original Documents, such person/s is / are hereby requested to return the said Original Documents to the undersigned, at the below mentioned address.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 13-02-2024

M/S. Goyal Hariyana Constructions,
Office at No. 206, Barton Centre, M. G. Road,
Bengaluru - 560 001.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION, Construction & Maintenance Group
ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058, Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094182, 4541.

On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work .

	CORRIGENDUM-II Dated: 12.02.2024	**CORRIGENDUM-I Dated: 12.02.2024**
NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender-83/2023-24/ Dated: 11.01.2024**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-TN-90/2023-24/ Dated: 25.01.2024**
Name of work	**Annual maintenance contract for Plante batteries of EXIDE make installed as backup supply for UPS in various buildings in IDSN Campus, Byalalu Village, Bengaluru.**	**Testing of faulty LT Cables and providing straight through joints at IDSN, ISTRAC, Byalalu.**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs. 18.83 Lakhs**	**Rs. 23.11 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**12 Months (With a provision to extend the contract for a period of two more years with same terms and conditions)**	**15 days**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 16.00 hrs on 12.01.2024 to 26.01.2024 till 16.00 hrs. Extended up to 07.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs. **Further extended up to 20.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs.**	From 16.00 hrs on 26.01.2024 to 07.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 20.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid Clarification	From 11.00 hrs on 13.01.2024 to 27.01.2024 till 16.00 hrs. Extended up to 08.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs. **Further extended up to 21.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs.**	From 11.00 hrs on 27.01.2024 to 08.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 21.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs.**
Last date of reply to Bid Clarifications	29.01.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. Extended up to 09.02.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. **Further extended up to 22.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs.**	09.02.2024 up to 16.00 hrs **Extended up to 22.02.2024 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	30.01.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. Extended up to 10.02.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. **Further extended up to 23.02.2024 till 16.00 hrs.**	10.02.2024 up to 16.00 hrs **Extended up to 23.02.2024 up to16.00 hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	01.02.2024 after 11.00 hrs. Extended up to 12.02.2024 after 11.00 hrs. **Further extended up to 26.02.2024 till 11.00 hrs.**	12.02.2024 aftter 11.00 hrs **Extended up to 26.02.2024 after 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 37,660/-**	**Rs. 46,220/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details in website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

INBRIEF

Paytm confirms resignation of director at banking arm

Paytm on Monday confirmed media reports of an independent director at its banking arm having resigned. Manju Agarwal resigned from the board of Paytm Payments Bank on Feb. 1 due to personal commitments, the company said in an exchange filing. The payments firm on Friday said it would form an advisory committee on compliance and regulatory matters, a week after India's central bank ordered Paytm Payments Bank to wind down most of its operations. REUTERS

SC issues notice on GST's anti-profiteering provisions

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to the Union of India, the GST Council and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, on the constitutional validity of anti-profiteering provisions under the GST regime. The court was urged to examine the issue by advocate Abhishek Rastogi on the ground that the provisions cannot be endless and they are manifestly arbitrary and vague in the absence of a methodology to determine the extent of deemed profiteering.

Chemplast Sanmar reports ₹60 cr. Q3 standalone net loss

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd. reported Q3 standalone net loss of ₹60 crore against a net profit of ₹57 crore in the year-earlier period due to dumping by China and other countries. Revenue from operations to slid to ₹439 crore from ₹630 crore, the specialty chemicals manufacturer said in a statement. "Q3 performance ran into heavy weather due to further correction in PVC prices on account of dumping from China and other countries," said MD Ramkumar Shankar.

Industrial output witnessed mild recovery in December

Manufacturing sector's growth picks up pace from a seven-month low of 1.2% to 3.9%; 12 of the 23 segments tracked by the IIP recorded an up tick in Dec., which was double the number in Nov.

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output growth recovered from an eight-month low of 2.4% in November 2023 to 3.8% in December 2023, with the manufacturing sector's growth picking up pace from a seven-month low of 1.2% to 3.9%.

A dozen of the 23 manufacturing segments tracked to compute the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded an up tick in December, double the number of sectors that grew in November.

In recovery mode

Industrial output growth recovered from an eight-month low of 2.4% in November 2023 to 3.8% in December 2023

- Consumer durables production recovered in December, albeit aided by a 11.2% dip recorded a year earlier
- Consumer non-durables also bounced back from a 3.6% contraction in November to rise a moderate 2.1% in December

- Consumption demand to remain soft as past interest rate hikes and RBI regulations dampen credit growth

Consumer durables production recovered from a 5.4% contraction in November to grow 4.8% in December, albeit aided by a 11.2% dip recorded a year earlier. On a sequential basis, durables' output jumped 7.75% from November 2023 levels, which marked the lowest production levels since June 2021.

Consumer non-durables also bounced back from a 3.6% contraction in November to rise a moderate 2.1% in December. Output levels were, however, 13.1% higher than November.

Noting that the average IIP growth in the Oct.-Dec. 2023 slowed to 5.9% from 7.8% in the previous quarter, CRISIL's Dharmakirti Joshi said consumption demand is expected to remain soft as transmission of interest rate hikes and RBI's regulatory measures dampen credit growth.

'No review on the cards for Paytm Payments Bank curbs'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shaktikanta Das says the RBI took the decision after serious consideration, not in a casual manner

Dismissing the prospects for a review of the decision to impose curbs on Paytm Payments Bank's operations after February 29, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Monday that the banking regulator takes such decisions after serious consideration and in public interest, not in a casual manner.

Speaking after a meeting of the RBI's central board, Mr. Das stressed that protecting customers and maintaining financial stability are prime considerations for the central bank's actions.

Mr. Das reiterated that the central bank will issue an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document this week to allay concerns of the payment bank's customers and ensure they don't face any inconvenience due to the curbs. Last month, the RBI had directed the payments bank to cease taking fresh deposits and a few other key operations after February 29, citing "persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns in the bank."

"We take all decisions after a lot of consideration and analysis. It's not as if we decide today and start reviewing it tomorrow," the Governor said, indicating that a review of the curbs on the entity is not on the table. "Decisions are not taken in a casual manner. These decisions are taken in the most serious manner in public interest."

LIC increases stake in SBI Cards to 5.02%

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) shareholding in SBI Cards and Payments Services crossed 5% with the insurer, as an investment function, acquiring recently a little more than three lakh shares in the non-banking financial company at an average cost of ₹716 per share.

The shareholding has risen from 4.99% to 5.02% (47,410,710 to 47,711,794 equity shares) following the open-market purchase.

RuPay, UPI rolled out in Mauritius, Sri Lanka

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

RuPay cards and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) connectivity between India and Mauritius, as well as UPI connectivity between India and Sri Lanka were established on Monday to deepen financial integration and to facilitate digital payments among citizens of the three countries, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

An Indian traveller to Mauritius will now be able to pay a merchant in Mauritius using UPI. Similarly, a Mauritian traveller will be able to pay a merchant in India using the Instant Payment System (IPS) app of Mauritius.

Further, with the adoption of RuPay technology, the MauCAS card scheme of Mauritius will enable banks in Mauritius to issue RuPay cards domestically. Such cards can be used at ATMs and PoS terminals locally in Mauritius as well as in India. "Indian RuPay cards would also be accepted at ATMs and PoS terminals in Mauritius," the RBI said in a statement.

The digital payments connectivity with Sri Lanka will enable Indian travellers to make QR code-based payments at merchant locations in Sri Lanka using their UPI apps. The projects had been developed and executed by NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) along with partner banks / non-banks from Mauritius and Sri Lanka, under the guidance of RBI.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,072	-0.73
US Dollar	83.00	0.08
Gold	63,150	-0.23
Brent oil	81.81	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3169.75	-45.45
Adani Ports	1249.35	-22.15
Apollo Hosp	6614.45	177.10
Asian Paints	2953.80	2.15
Axis Bank	1046.70	-4.70
Bajaj Auto	7829.95	45.10
Bajaj Finserv	1557.25	-13.70
Bajaj Finance	6569.15	-85.35
Bharti Airtel	1118.70	-1.55
BPCL	590.45	-23.85
Britannia Ind	4970.20	-1.30
Cipla	1434.75	-5.00
Coal India	432.80	-23.40
Divis Lab	3740.15	87.85
Dr Reddys Lab	6333.50	177.65
Eicher Motors	3871.85	30.90
Grasim Ind	2147.35	-21.15
HCL Tech	1666.95	36.35
HDFC Bank	1390.00	-13.60
HDFC Life	577.20	-6.80
Hero MotoCorp	4687.50	-221.35
Hindalco	582.45	-8.85
Hind Unilever	2385.65	-38.50
ICICI Bank	996.10	-14.60
IndusInd Bank	1447.15	-39.10
Infosys	1680.10	10.75
ITC	406.85	-8.65
JSW Steel	811.50	-0.25
Kotak Bank	1709.55	-32.90
L&T	3299.55	-25.00
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5516.50	63.20
M&M	1660.45	14.05
Maruti Suzuki	10709.70	-23.15
NestleIndia	2459.05	8.95
NTPC	316.15	-8.75
ONGC	257.90	-9.65
PowerGrid Corp	270.30	-2.70
Reliance Ind	2904.70	-16.80
SBI Life	1436.00	-3.70
State Bank	707.90	-17.35
Sun Pharma	1534.45	-0.35
TataConsumerProduct	1122.20	-7.05
Tata Motors	911.60	-3.40
Tata Steel	137.40	-3.90
TCS	4120.70	-13.00
Tech Mahindra	1318.80	7.75
Titan	3585.25	-6.35
UltraTech Cement	9963.85	18.10
UPL	458.40	0.45
Wipro	501.45	11.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.80	83.12
Euro	89.20	89.54
British Pound	104.52	104.93
Japanese Yen (100)	55.54	55.76
Chinese Yuan	11.51	11.56
Swiss Franc	94.56	94.93
Singapore Dollar	61.54	61.79
Canadian Dollar	61.50	61.74
Malaysian Ringitt	17.36	17.45
Australian Dollar	53.97	54.19

Source:Indian Bank

'Low-cost airline SpiceJet to cut jobs, save $12 mn annually'

Reuters
BENGALURU

Indian low-cost carrier SpiceJet said on Monday that it has started adopting measures to reduce its workforce, aiming at saving ₹1 billion ($12 million) annually.

According to a media report, the cash-strapped airline would lay off 1,400 staff, or around 15% of its 9,000-strong workforce.

No confirmation

The carrier, however, did not confirm the number of jobs being cut.

SpiceJet said it took the measures as part of its turnaround and cost-cutting strategy following fund infusion to help in the revival of its grounded planes.

The airline, once India's second-largest, has so far raised ₹7.44 billion as part of a ₹22.50 billion fundraising effort by selling shares and warrants.

'Pilots calling in sick forced Akasa Air to cancel 10 flights'

Forum Gandhi
NEW DELHI

Pilots on 'sick leave', weather and operational reasons reportedly led to a number of cancellations and delays in Akasa Air flights in the last 48 hours.

As per data, at least 10 Akasa Air flights were cancelled on February 10 and 12, while 17-18 other flights were delayed. While the airline expressed regret, it simultaneously underlined that it now has 600 pilots and there was no shortage.

Vinay Dube, founder and CEO, Akasa Air, asserted that the airline did not have shortage of pilots.

"Akasa Air is sufficiently staffed with over 600 pilots, enough to operate more than double the size of our current fleet," he said. Akasa Air, with an average on-time performance (OTP) of 83.7% in 2023, had at least 17 flights delayed on February 11, sliding its average OTP to 73.5%. At least 25 flights had late landings.

According to information, over 10 flights were cancelled on February 11 and 12. Sources said the issue was due to some pilots calling in sick. The airline operates 800 weekly flights making it approximately 115 daily flights.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438

Brief Tender Notification
(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tender against enquiry No: **BESCOM/2023-24/SE0105 date : 12.02.2024** for Project Management Consultancy services to BESCOM for implementation of Upgradation of DAS in Bengaluru city Project

Availability of Bid document : **13-02-2024 From 16:00 hrs.**
Last date for Receipt of bids : **28-02-2024 Upto 16:00 hrs.**

The detailed notification can be obtained from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

For electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
General Manager, DAS, BESCOM

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from Smt. Ragini Mukund and Shri. G S Mukund who have represented to our client that they are the Absolutes owners of the Schedule property.

Any person objecting to the proposed sale of the Schedule Property is called upon to submit to us the details of such objections, in writing, together with copies of supporting documents, within a period of one week from the publication of this Notice. If no objections are received by us within ONE WEEK period, our Client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property and neither will any objections thereto be entertained by our Client thereafter nor will such objections, if any, be considered tenable against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No. Site No. 520, presently bearing Municipal No.23, situated at the layout formed in Survey No.21, Lalbagh Upparahalli, now known as Kanakanapalya, Acharya Layout, Behind RV Teachers College, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560004 presently within BBMP Ward No. 153, Jayanagar, PID No. 50-44-23, measuring East to West 53 Feet and North to South 62 Feet, totally measuring 3286 Sq.Ft together with the residential building thereon comprising of Ground Floor and First Floor, in all measuring 2500 Sq.Ft, and bounded on the:

East by: Property bearing Site No.519 West by : Road.
North by: Property bearing Site 521, and South by : Road

LEX SCRIPTA Advocates,
No. 505, 3rd Floor, Prestige Westminster, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-506003. M: 9632888887
Bangalore Date:13.02.2024

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(Government of Karnataka under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Design and Investigation Division, Bannur, T.Narasipura Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka
PHONE AND FAX NO. 08227-275653
E-mail: eedidbannur@gmail.com
Short term Tender notification No. 09/2023-24, Dated:03.02.2024.

Corregendum No. 01/2023-24, Dated 08.02.2024

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
Last date of submission of tender for the work of "Improvements to Balanced work of Hosahalli Deepcut under Madhavamanthri canal in Malavalli Taluk." is extended. The dates for submission of tender and opening of the tender and other details can be obtained from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal or from the office signed/- below.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1066/2023-24
Sd/- Executive Engineer

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Phone : 080-41106507 - 18.
e-mail: cekwbbng@gmail.com website: https://kuwsdb.karnataka.gov.in

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

IFT no: 1146 dated: 12.02.2024

Short term Tender for the work of "Improvements of water supply system to Huliyar town with Boranakanive reservoir as source and Providing water supply scheme to Pavagada town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through design, build, operation and transfer (DBOT) mode" amounting to ₹.72.82 Crores has been invited vide Karnataka Public Procurement Portal indent No: KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT154

Further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/CP/3542/AKAR/2023-24
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER
KUWS & D BOARD, BENGALURU

CG Power forms JV to set up chip assembly unit

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Murugappa Group firm CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. (CG Power) has entered into a joint venture with Renesas Electronics America Inc. (Renesas) and Stars Microelectronics (Thailand) Public Co. Ltd. (Stars) for setting up an outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing (OSAT) facility in India.

CG, Renesas and Stars have agreed to invest $205 million, $15 million and $2 million respectively towards equity capital, representing 92.34%, 6.76%, and 0.90% respectively, the TII subsidiary said in a regulatory filing.

DGAQA approves localising Airbus C295 parts, assembly

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Airbus Defence and Space (ADS) quality management system for the C295 aircraft has received Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) approval to produce detailed parts and sub-assemblies in India.

It is a significant step in the comprehensive quality assurance roadmap agreed between ADS and DGAQA for the C295 Make in India programme. ADS is working with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. to produce detailed parts and sub-assemblies at various locations in India.

DGAQA Sanjay Chawla (centre)

DGAQA Sanjay Chawla presented the certificate of approval on Monday to ADS CEO Michael Schoellhorn and TASL Head-Aerostructures and Aeroengines Masood Hussainy at the C295 main components assembly facility in Hyderabad, Airbus said.

JSW said to plan making EVs at Odisha in three years

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The construction of the JSW Group's Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing facility in Odisha is expected to begin by the end of the year once regulatory approvals are received and commissioning would happen within 2-3 years, JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal is understood to have told Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his team at the MoU signing event in Bhubaneswar, it is reliably learnt.

The group has announced the setting up of battery and EV manufacturing units with an investment of ₹40,000 crore.

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
Office of the Chief Engineer
Jalamandali Compound, Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road,Dharwad-580 001
Tel No: 0836-2447090 E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Name of works:
(1) Tender for the work of **'Providing Water Supply Distribution System to Harugeri and Mugalkod Towns (Tranche-2) under AMRUT 2.0'** including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation) (Work Indent No.KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT/115)
(2) Tender for the work of **'Providing Water Supply Scheme to Examba, Chikkodi and Sadalaga Towns under AMRUT 2.0'** including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation) (Work Indent No.KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT/114) Bid Notification No.1903, Date:12-01-2024 (Karnataka Edition) News papers on 14-01-2024. Published in **"Kannadaprabha", "Halliya sandesh" "Samadarshi" & "The Hindu"** (Karnataka Edition) Attention is invited to the above Bid Notification.
The Calendar of events are amended as under:
1) Last Date & Time for Bid submission: 16-02-2024 up to 17.30 Hours.
2) Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bids: 19-02-2024 after 11.00 Hours.

The other information in the Notification remains unaltered.

DIPR/Dwd/787/DeshpandePublicity/2023-24
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER,
KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIVISION, BELAGAVI.
PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008

No.EE/MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE/2023-24/ 652 Date: 09-02-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-4)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the Item rate tender in Two Cover System through KPPP (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Total 01 No. of work under 4702/2022-23 Head. Estimate Amount Rs.250.00 Lakhs. Pre bid meeting date 16-02-2024 at Morning 11.00 AM, Tender Receipt Last Date 17-02-2024 Evening 5.00 PM, Tender Opening Date: 19-02-2024 Morning 11.00 AM (If possible), For Tender Details office address Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi and www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1109/KSMCA/2023-24
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.

TOUGH COMPETITION

India have real battle on their hands, says Ian Chappell

K.R. DEEPAK

Former Australia skipper Ian Chappell feels England under Ben Stokes will give India tough competition in the remainder of the Test series but backed the hosts to win it. "As the home side India should eventually win a tough series, but it has a real battle on their hands," Chappell wrote in his column for *ESPNCricinfo*.

REJUVENATED

England arrives in Rajkot after week-long break

K. R. DEEPAK

Fresh from a one-week break in their pre-series base Abu Dhabi, the England cricket team on Monday returned to India for the remainder of the five-match rubber against the hosts, which is locked at 1-1 after two games. The England team landed in Rajkot — venue for the third Test — on Monday evening.

LESS THAN IDEAL

Maxwell opens up about Adelaide night fiasco

AFP

Ending up in hospital after a late-night party in Adelaide was "less than ideal," conceded Glenn Maxwell about the headline-grabbing incident last month. "I think probably it affected my family a little bit more than it affected me. And obviously that incident was less than ideal, and the timing," Maxwell was quoted as saying.

ON COURSE

Pink Panthers ease past Yoddhas to seal a semifinal spot

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Arjun Deshwal top-scored with 20 raid points to help Jaipur Pink Panthers thrash U.P. Yoddhas 67-30 and secure a semifinal spot in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 in Kolkata on Monday. In another match, Bengal Warriors got one step closer to the qualification bracket with an easy 46-34 win over the U Mumba.

Rahul ruled out of Rajkot Test, Padikkal named as replacement

The former will continue his recovery process at the NCA to be match-fit for the fourth Test, says BCCI secretary Jay Shah

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

Devdutt Padikkal, the stylish left-handed bat, has received his maiden call-up after K.L. Rahul – his Karnataka senior – has been ruled out of India's third Test versus England, to be played here from Thursday.

"Rahul has reached 90% of match fitness and is progressing well under the supervision of the BCCI Medical Team," Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary, wrote in a statement.

"He will continue his recovery process at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru to be completely match-fit for the fourth and fifth Test."

Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja – both of whom had missed the second Test after getting hurt during India's loss in Hyderabad last month – had been named in the squad for the last three Tests pending fitness clearance.

While India's squad that reassembled here on Sunday had its first training session at the stadium on Monday, Rahul is understood to have undergone a fitness test at the NCA. With the selectors and the team-management, in consultation with the BCCI medical team, deciding to not risk a player, the selection committee unanimously zeroed in on Padikkal being given a maiden Test call-up.

Interestingly, chief selector Ajit Agarkar witnessed Padikkal's sensational 151 for Karnataka against Tamil Nadu in the Ranji Trophy's high-profile southern derby over the last four days.

It is understood that Jadeja appeared to be fit during Monday's net session which was played behind closed doors, with no mediaperson being allowed to watch the team train.

In his element: A superb 151 in the Ranji Trophy may have clinched a spot for Padikkal. M. VEDHAN

It will be interesting to see if Padikkal is made to wait for his India cap, with Sarfaraz Khan being the front-runner to replace Shreyas Iyer in India's middle-order. Sarfaraz was brought in as Rahul's replacement ahead of the second Test and has been retained in the squad with Shreyas being dropped.

Meanwhile, England leggie Rehan Ahmed was stopped from exiting the Hirasar airport – on the outskirts of the Kathiawari city – due to lack of multi-entry visa upon England's arrival here on Monday.

England's squad spent the week-long break in Abu Dhabi before arriving here on Monday. It was noticed that Rehan had a single-entry visa so the England squad waited at the airport in the afternoon before the formalities were completed.

It is understood that with the help of local authorities, Rehan was granted a two-day visa at the earliest and the remaining paperwork will be completed well in time before the scheduled start of the match.

Leach ruled out

Rehan will be crucial to England's plans with Jack Leach, supposed to be the leader of the spin attack, having been ruled out of the remainder of the series. After sustaining a knee injury in Hyderabad, Leach missed the Visakhapatnam Test and has headed back home. The England camp has not named a replacement for Leach.

Marathon record-holder Kiptum killed in road accident

Reuters
NAIROBI

Kiptum. GETTY IMAGES

World marathon record holder Kelvin Kiptum and his coach Gervais Hakizimana died in a traffic accident on Sunday, former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga said on social media platform X.

Kenya's minister for sports Ababu Namwamba said on X , "Devastatingly sickening!! Kenya has lost a special gem. Lost for words."

Kiptum, 24, set the world record at the Chicago Marathon in October with a time of 2:00:35 to surpass the record of 2:01:09 set by his compatriot Eliud Kipchoge in Berlin in 2022.

Kiptum smashed the London Marathon course record earlier last year and was determined to make magic again in Chicago as he sped up through the 35-kilometre mark before thrusting his arms in the air to cheers from the crowd down the final stretch.

"We are shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the devastating loss. On behalf of all World Athletics, we send our deepest condolences to their families, friends, teammates and the Kenyan nation", said World Athletics president Sebastian Coe.

"It was only earlier this week in Chicago, the place where Kelvin set his extraordinary marathon world record, that I was able to officially ratify his historic time. An incredible athlete leaving an incredible legacy, we will miss him dearly," added Coe.

Ramkumar claws his way back to get past Janvier

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Ramkumar Ramanathan fought back from the brink, from a set and three match points down, to beat France's Maxime Janvier 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-4 and enter the second round of the dafaNews Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger, here on Monday.

The wild card entrant's stay in the singles draw at the Garden City seemed set to end the same way as it had last week in Chennai – with a first-round defeat.

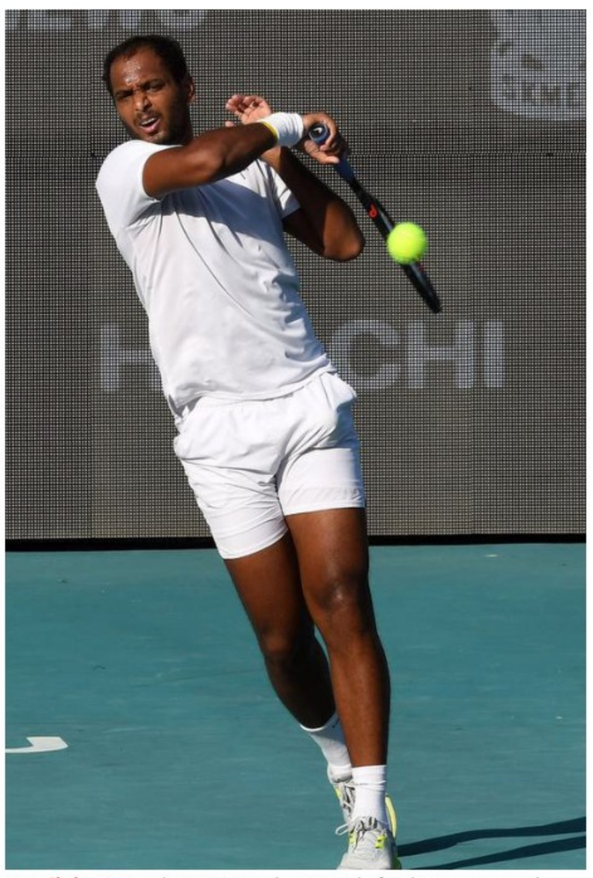
But the 29-year-old clawed his way back miraculously for only his first main draw match win since November 2022.

On the day, fortunes swung back and forth in the opening set as Ramkumar and Janvier couldn't calibrate their games to match the pomp of the immaculately laid KSLTA courts inside the leafy and pristine Cubbon Park.

The duo traded breaks early on and the contest inevitably slipped into a tie break.

Once there, Ramkumar made the first move, going up 4-1. But Janvier reeled off six straight points to pocket the set.

In the second stanza, the two kept pace with each other until one bad service game at 4-5 saw Ramkumar staring down the barrel. However, he saved all three, levelled at 5-5 and broke to go 6-5 up.



Houdini act: Ramkumar turned it around after being a set and three match points down against Janvier. SUDHAKARA JAIN

That last return game showed his heightened confidence, especially the fierce slapped return to bring up the break point.

Ramkumar carried that belief, first to hold serve to take the match into the decider and then break Janvier's serve in the third game of the third set.

From there on, there was no looking back for the Indian.

Australian Bernard Tomic entered the main draw after defeating Jonas Forejtek of Czech Republic 6-4, 6-2 in the final qualifying round.

The results (first round):
Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Maxime Janvier (Fra) 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-4; Moez Echargui (Tun) bt Duje Ajdukovic (Cro) 6-2, 6-4; Gauthier Onclin (Bel) bt Giovanni Fonio (Ita) 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(5).

Vijay Amritraj — star of the night and toast of the gathering

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

Vijay Amritraj.
FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

It was a night of elegance, nostalgia and celebration as Chennai raised a toast to one of its favourite sons, a national icon and global ambassador, all rolled into one. At the Leela Palace here on Monday, Vijay Amritraj was feted for his elevation in to the International Tennis Hall of Fame, which most among the assembled gathering felt came a touch late to a man who deserves all the accolades and more.

A tennis icon, broadcaster, actor, champion of social causes and sports administrator, Amritraj is a star of many parts. However, deep down he is a quintessential Chennai boy with academic roots in Don Bosco School and Loyola College. And this was the return of the native as the who's who of this Southern metropolis rallied around to cherish him.

Tamil Nadu's Minister for Youth Development and Sports Welfare Udhayanidhi Stalin effusively lauded the sporting legend to set the tone for a night of appreciation. Chess maestro Viswanathan Anand said: "Whatever I tried to do, Vijay had been there before."

Amritraj's India teammate Ramesh Krishnan spoke about the deep ties between the two families

> Whatever I tried to do, Vijay had been there before
> VISWANATHAN ANAND

and elder brother Anand elaborated about a childhood of dreams and naughty streaks.

The night truly belonged to Amritraj who thanked the audience with his customary wit and grace, and said: "I owe it to my parents, they were two ordinary people who did extraordinary things with me."

And to cap it all, Boris Becker sent across a video message and said his prefix 'boom boom' was coined by his friend Vijay. It was that kind of night, of delicate verbal drop shots coated with an enduring affection.

Indian women go down to China again, no stopping the Dutch juggernaut

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

It finally came down to a penalty stroke and the scoreline read 2-1 in favour of China as the Indian women's hockey team began the second leg of its FIH Pro League matches at the Birsa Munda Stadium here with yet another loss on Monday but it wasn't as close a game as the result would suggest.

Possession to India, control and game to China – that was the story of the night as the host, after an initial 10-minute period of intense pace and intent gradually slipped behind even as China dictated the direction for large parts of the game.

Starting quickly and with purpose, India had the upper hand early on and kept the pressure on the Chinese defence with repeated circle entries, one of them seeing Vandana Katariya's backhand pass from close to the backline being deflected in by Sangita Kumari for the lead.

China got one of its own towards the end of the first 1st Quarter through veteran Bingfeng Gu's penalty corner. But once the teams settled down, China's defensive structure held firm against all Indian attempts that slowly went from purposeful to off target to desperate.

Strikeforce: Bingfeng netted both the goals for China.
X@FIH_HOCKEY

India had the ball for long periods without actually appearing threatening, running all around without being able to get into the circle post break. The Chinese appeared content going for the counters and then falling back into their respective zones to cut off space and induce turnovers but barring a few half chances, they didn't have much to show either. It was one of those games where both teams relied more of mistakes from the opponent.

Breached

The Indian defence, after being effective for long, finally slipped in the 53rd minute when the ball hit Monika on the goalline off China's 4th PC, conceding a penalty stroke and Bingfeng had no difficulty putting it past Savita. India had a PC two minutes later but was unable to convert, remaining an area of concern for the team.

The Dutch juggernaut, meanwhile, continued to roll on with the World No. 1 side registering a 4-0 win against USA, scoring twice on either side of half time and finding ways to get the goals despite the Americans negating their PC advantage.

The results:
Netherlands 4 (Fay van der Elst 21, 56, Freeke Moes 16, Felice Albers 36) bt USA 0; China 2 (Bingfeng Gu 14, 53) bt India 1 (Sangita Kumari 7).

INBRIEF

Argentina eliminates Brazil, books Paris Olympics spot

Argentina secured its spot at the men's football tournament at the upcoming Paris Olympics by beating defending champion Brazil 1-0 on Sunday, a result which also eliminated its bitter rival. In the decisive South American Olympic qualifier, Leandro Goudou scored the winner for the Argentina Under-23 team. He headed a cross from Valentin Barco past goalkeeper Mycael in the 78th minute in Caracas.

Haller hits winner, Ivory Coast pips Nigeria for AFCON title

Hosts Ivory Coast defeated Nigeria 2-1 in the Africa Cup of Nations final on Sunday to win the tournament for the third time. William Troost-Ekong headed Nigeria in front late in the first half in Abidjan, but Franck Kessie equalised on the hour and Sebastien Haller poked in the winner with nine minutes left.

The results, final: Nigeria 1 (Troost-Ekong 38) lost to Ivory Coast 2 (Kessie 62, Haller 81).

Sporting Club Bengaluru rallies to beat Kenkre FC

Sporting Club Bengaluru scored two injury-time goals to record a stunning come-from-behind 4-3 victory over Kenkre FC and retain second spot in I-League 2 (12 points, six matches) in Bengaluru on Monday. FC Bengaluru United, with a 3-0 victory over Sudeva Delhi FC, reclaimed top spot (13 pts, six matches). The league will now take more than a month-long break for Santosh Trophy and will only resume on March 23.

The results: FC Bengaluru United 3 (Ashley Alban Kolo 10, Jerry Onesemas Pulamte 26, Ngangbam Singh 48) bt Sudeva Delhi FC 0; Sporting Club Bengaluru 4 (Thomyo L. Shimray 36, 45+3, Himanshu Patil 90+6, Saiyyad Umair 90+2) bt Kenkre FC 3 (Azfar Noorani 55, Subha Ghosh 64, 74).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIXTURES, ROUND OF 16

RB Leipzig vs. Real Madrid, Copenhagen vs. Manchester City (both matches at 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday).
PSG vs. Real Sociedad, Lazio vs. Bayern Munich (both matches at 1:30 a.m. on Thursday).

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs WI: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 2 & Hotstar, 2 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
New Zealand vs South Africa: 2nd Test, day 2, Prime Video, 3.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

TN-Karnataka clash goes down to the wire, ends in a thrilling stalemate

Pradosh, Indrajith and Vijay Shankar help take the home side within striking distance of the target before finishing 17 runs behind

RANJI TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

A Tamil Nadu-Karnataka game is one of the marquee clashes on the domestic calendar. True to its billing, the two sides dished out a humdinger that went down to the wire before ending in a stalemate at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Monday.

TN, chasing 355 on the final day of the Ranji Trophy clash, came within striking distance of the target before finishing 17 runs behind, while Karnataka was two wickets away from a win.

However, the match would not have gone so deep if not for half-centuries from Pradosh Ranjan Paul (74), B. Indrajith (98, 194b, 3x4) and Vijay Shankar (60), which kept the hosts in the hunt despite facing stiff odds at the start of the day. A lot depended on Indrajith for TN to have a chance of even salvaging a point on a pitch assisting spinners, and the 29-year-old rose to the occasion.

Anchor: Indrajith was nimble on his feet and held fort at one end, building vital partnerships. M. VEDHAN

Indrajith was nimble on his feet, especially off the backfoot against the tweakers and held fort at one end, building partnerships with Pradosh and later Vijay Shankar – with whom he added 125 runs for the sixth wicket.

Overnight batters Pradosh and opener Vimal Khumar played out the first hour without trouble after resuming the day on 36 for one. Pradosh looked fluent and hit a flurry of boundaries, as TN managed 114 runs in the first session. The left-hander targeted the square boundary with consecutive ramp shots over the slips off V. Kaverappa. He reached his half-century with a sweep to the fence off Hardik Raj.

However, just 10 minutes before lunch, the 23-year-old poked at a delivery from Vyshak and was caught at slip.

At 199 for five, Indrajith and Vijay Shankar needed to bat out nearly 34 overs. The former hit a few boundaries before Vijay joined the act with a swept four and six, forcing the visitors to go on the defensive by bowling negative leg-side lines with nine fielders on the ropes. The duo ran a lot of twos and reduced the target to 97 off the last 15 mandatory overs.

Mayank Agarwal's men took the new ball with 41 needed off the last five and got a breakthrough when Indrajith was run out trying to steal a single, two short of a well-deserved century.

In the next over, Vijay Shankar was caught at long-on off Vyshak, and TN's charge ended at that point, but not before putting on a show that added lustre to this famed rivalry.

The scores:
Karnataka — 1st innings: 366.
Tamil Nadu — 1st innings: 151.
Karnataka — 2nd innings: 139.
Tamil Nadu — 2nd innings: Vimal Khumar c Padikkal b Shashi Kumar 31, N. Jagadeesan c Padikkal b Vyshak 8, Pradosh Ranjan Paul c Padikkal b Vyshak 74, B. Indrajith (run out) 98, M. Boopathi Vaishna Kumar lbw b Hardik Raj 19, M. Mohammed c Manish b Hardik 15, Vijay Shankar c Mayank b Vyshak 60, R. Sai Kishore (not out) 7, S. Lokeshwar c Manish b Kaverappa 1, S. Ajith Ram (not out) 5, Extras (b-7, lb-9, w-4): 20; Total (for eight wkts in 105 overs): 338
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-75, 3-142, 4-177, 5-199, 6-324, 7-329, 8-330
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 15-1-62-1, Vyshak 22-2-71-3, Shashi Kumar 36-7-89-1, Samarth 8-0-14-0, Hardik Raj 24-0-86-2.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES, ROUND 6, DAY 4

Elite: Group-A: At Jaipur: Saurashtra 328 & 234/6 decl. in 64 overs (Sheldon Jackson 49, Arpit Vasavada 74 n.o.) bt Rajasthan 257 & 87 in 28.4 overs (Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 7/32) **Points: Saurashtra 6(22), Rajasthan 0(19).**
At Pune: Maharashtra 208 & 371 in 121.5 overs (Digvijay Patil 68, Kedar Jadhav 40, Ankeet Bawane 84, Dhanraj Shinde 40, Aditya Thakare 5/54) lost to Vidarbha 552 & 28/0 in 6 overs. **Maharashtra 0(11), Vidarbha 7(27).**
Group-B: At Vizianagaram: Andhra 261 & 429/9 in 145 overs (Ricky Bhui 129, Shaik Rasheed 85, Nitish Kumar Reddy 53 n.o., Saurabh Kumar 5/116) drew with Uttar Pradesh 198. **Andhra 3(25), Uttar Pradesh 1(13).**
At Raipur: Mumbai 351 & 253/6 in 82 overs (Bhupen Lalwani 59, Ajinkya Rahane 56 n.o., Ajay Mandal 5/65) drew with Chhattisgarh 350 in 106.1 overs (Amandeep Khare 143, Tushar Deshpande 5/121). **Mumbai 3(30), Chhattisgarh 1(13).**
At Thumba: Kerala 363 & 265/6 decl. bt Bengal 180 & 339 in 87.4 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 65, Shahbaz Ahmed 80, Karan Lal 40, Jalaj Saxena 4/104). **Kerala 6(14), Bengal 0(12).**
At Guwahati: Assam 405 & 100/1 in 14.2 overs (Parvej Musaraf 52 n.o.) bt Bihar 207 & 292 in 121 overs (Piyush Singh 103, Rahul Singh 5/49). **Assam 6(8), Bihar 0(5).**
Group-C: At Chandigarh: Chandigarh 356 & 359/3 decl. in 74 overs (Shivam Bhambri 98, Arslan Khan 147, Manan Vohra 74) drew with Tripura 438 & 121/3 in 34.4 overs (Bishal Ghosh 44, Bikramkumar Das 58 n.o.). **Chandigarh 1(5), Tripura 3(17).**
At Surat: Railways 297 & 208 bt Goa 200 & 242 in 65.2 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 67, Akash Pandey 9/71). **Railways 6(18), Goa 0(4).**
At Mohali: Gujarat 339 & 290/8 decl. bt Punjab 219 & 111 in 39.4 overs (Priyajitsing Jadeja 5/39). **Gujarat 6(19), Punjab 0(9).**
At Chennai: Karnataka 366 & 139 drew with Tamil Nadu 151 & 338/8 in 105 overs (Pradosh Ranjan Paul 74, B. Indrajith 98, Vijay Shankar 60). **Karnataka 3(24), Tamil Nadu 1(22).**
Group-D: At Dharamshala: Delhi 264 & 381/6 decl. bt Himachal Pradesh 319 & 250 in 76.4 overs (Rishi Dhawan 65, Himanshu Chauhan 5/63). **Delhi 6(14), HP 0(4).**
At Indore: Madhya Pradesh 454 bt Baroda 132 & 270 in 98.3 overs (Shashwat Rawat 105, Kulwant Khejroliya 5/34). **MP 7(26), Baroda 0(23).**
At Cuttack: Uttarakhand 342 & 203/8 decl. bt Odisha 169 & 214 in 91.4 overs (S. Senapati 61, Deepak Dhapola 5/74). **Uttarakhand 6(14), Odisha 0(12).**

Jordan scores a brace, Punjab silences Blasters

ISL-10

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

Life without midfield magician Adrian Luna is turning out to be tough for Kerala Blasters. The spark was missing as the side went down to Punjab FC 1-3 in the Indian Super League at the Nehru Stadium here on Monday with the visitor's Colombian forward scoring two of those goals.

It was only Punjab's third win this season and saw it climb from the 11th to the ninth spot in the table while the Blasters remain on the third rung.

Despite dominating the league this season, coach Ivan Vukomanovic had warned that Punjab would be a tough opponent but none expected the match to end in the way it did. Strangely, the stadium was not even half full, probably the fans missed their most popular player Luna and the deafening roar which usually sends rivals into a shell was missing.

Catch me if you can: Jordan found the net either side of the half-time break. NITHIN KRISHNAN

That perhaps worked in Punjab's favour.

For though, KBFC dominated a major part of the opening half and even took the lead in the 39th minute through its defender Milos Drincic, whose left-footed shot appeared to bounce inside the line, Punjab fought back and after gaining the lead choked the home side with a strong defence.

Jordan sidestepped Pritam Kotal for the equaliser shortly before the break after receiving a long pass from Madih Talal, and later made the most of a deflection from goalkeeper Sachin Suresh to give Punjab the lead with a header.

And just before the end, Luka Majcen added one more off a penalty for a Blasters handball.

The result: KBFC 1 (Drincic 39) lost to PFC 3 (Jordan 42 & 61, Majcen 88-pen).

Gokulam beats Lajong, climbs up the table

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

Gokulam Kerala's homecoming proved a memorable affair on Monday night. The former champion won a crucial I-League encounter against Shillong Lajong 2-0.

In what was Gokulam's first home match in two months, Sourav and Matija Babovic were the scorers.

Gokulam is now on 23 points, five behind the leader Mohammedan Sporting. Two other teams – Real Kashmir and Sreenidi, which has played a game less – are also on 23.

In the second half, substitute Matija Babovic slotted home an excellent pass from captain Alex Sanchez from inside the box to seal Gokulam's victory.

The result:
Gokulam 2 (Sourav 45+4, Matija Babovic 72) bt Lajong 0.

O Hansini takes the honours in the Kakatiya Million

HYDERABAD: Trainer Rakesh's O Hansini, ridden by Vivek G, won the Kakatiya Million, the main attraction of Monday's (Feb. 12) races.
The winner is owned by Mrs. Namrataa Rakesh.
1. SAROORNAGAR PLATE (DIV. II): GOLDEN INZIO (Ajay Kumar) 1, Wandring Warrior (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 2, Glimmer Of Hope (Surya Prakash) 3 and Federer (Ashad Asbar) 4. Neck, 3-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 13.85s. ₹51 (w), 19, 11 and 16 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 67, SHW: 40 and 10, FP: 217, Q: 82, Tanala: 1,060. Favourite: Wandring Warrior. Owners: Mr. C.S. Suresh, Mr. Manish Jaiswal & Mrs. Candida Tania Jaiswal. Trainer: S. Sreekant.
2. KAMAREDDY CUP (DIV. II): PARK LANE (Md. Ismail) 1, Royal Pal (Nakhat Singh) 2, China Town (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Silver Arrow (Kaviraj) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 27.03s. ₹30 (w), 10, 14 and 17 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 46, SHW: 13 and 24, FP: 108, Q: 54, Tanala: 546. Favourite: Park Lane. Owners: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla & Mr. Vankata Ramana Reddy Bomareddy. Trainer : Robin Reddy Kondakalla.
3. RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. II): HUNTINGDON (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Painted Apache (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Soloist (Vivek G) 3 and Beauty Blaze (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 1-1/4 and Neck. 1m, 25.36s. ₹28 (w), 12, 21 and 12 (p). SHP: 111, THP: 39, SHW: 16 and 37, FP: 234, Q: 219, Tanala: 937. Favourite: Malaala. Owners: Mr. Vazhaparmbil John Joseph & Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur. Trainer: L. D' Silva.
NOTE: *Originally the result was Huntingdon, Beauty Blaze, Painted Apache and Soloist in that order. An objection raised by jockey Vivek G (Soloist up) against P. Sai Kumar (rider of Beauty Blaze) for causing him interference in the last 150m was upheld by the Stewards and the order was revised as above.*
4. JANGAON PLATE: COLT PISTOL (Hindu Singh) 1, La Mirage (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Silk (Ajay Kumar) 3 and Adbhut (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. 1-1/2, 1-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 12.07s. ₹51 (w), 16, 12 and 35 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 60, SHW: 36 and 20, FP: 287, Q: 142, Tanala: 2,592. Favourite: Adbhut. Owner: Mr. Maddali Sai Kumar. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.
5. KAMAREDDY CUP (DIV. I): BEAUTY FLAME (N.B. Kuldeep) 1, Power Ranger (Md. Ekram Alam) 2, Sadiya (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 3 and Master Touch (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 2, 3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 26.39s. ₹61 (w), 17, 13 and 43 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 124, SHW: 11 and 18, FP: 173, Q: 77, Tanala: 7,114. Favourite: Power Ranger. Owner: Mr. Md. Kashif Khan. Trainer: N. Rawal.
6. VEGAVATHI CUP: N R I SUPER-POWER (P.S. Kaviraj) 1, Blazing Gun (Vivek G) 2, Toffee (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Detective (Abhay Singh) 4. Head, 4-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 38.28s. ₹118 (w), 26, 12 and 16 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 45, SHW: 34 and 16, FP: 699, Q: 248, Tanala: 4,542. Favourite: Sacred Bond. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.
7. KAKATIYA MILLION: O HANSINI (Vivek G) 1, Ashwa Morocco (Hindu Singh) 2, Candy Girl (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Brilliant Star (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, Neck and 2-1/2. 1m, 10.39s. ₹51 (w), 12, 13 and 17 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 36, SHW: 20 and 21, FP: 253, Q: 114, Tanala: 1,386. Favourite: Polished Girl. Owner: Mrs. Namrataa Rakesh. Trainer: Rakesh.
8. RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. I) : AKIDO (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Siddharth (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Strauss (Vivek G) 3 and Mysterious Angel (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 2. 1m, 24.76s. ₹49 (w), 21, 10 and 17 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 37, SHW: 16 and 18, FP: 127, Q: 50, Tanala: 298. Favourite: Siddharth. Owner: Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: K. Satheesh.
9. SAROORNAGAR PLATE (DIV. I) : BLUE BRIGADE (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 1, Exeter (Ashad Asbar) 2, American Flame (Vivek G) 3 and Setastar (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 4. 1-1/4, 3-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 14.01s. ₹46 (w), 22, 21 and 13 (p). SHP: 70, THP: 59, SHW: 29 and 33, FP: 304, Q: 243, Tanala: 923. Favourite: American Flame. Owner: Mr. G.K. Keshava Murthy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.
Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹35,397 (3 tkts.) and 30%: 968 (47 tkts.); (ii) 70%: 7,20,873 (1 tkt) and 30%: 30,894 (10 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: 80, 994 (3 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 723 (53 tkts.), (ii) 15, 183 (7 tkts.), (iii) 2,419 (36 tkts.).

Recognition

Honour: Rohan Bopanna signing a portrait of himself and partner Matthew Ebden at a felicitation in Bengaluru on Monday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Barcelona escapes with a draw against Granada

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
BARCELONA

A double by Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal helped his side salvage a 3-3 draw at home to relegation-threatened Granada in a roller-coaster LaLiga match on Sunday. Xavi Hernandez's side is third in the standings on 51 points, five behind Girona.

Yamal put the host ahead after 14 minutes with a tap-in into an empty net after Joao Cancelo's cross found him at the far post.

Equaliser

Granada equalised two minutes before half-time thanks to Ricard Sanchez's powerful volley into the top corner. The visitor grabbed the lead in the 60th minute with an easy finish by Facundo Pellistri before Robert Lewandowski made it 2-2 as he scored from Ilkay Gundogan's pass three minutes later.

Sneaking through: Yamal saved Barcelona the blushes. AFP

Towering header

Ignasi Miquel restored Granada's lead with a towering header in the 66th minute, but Yamal levelled again with a long-range strike for his second of the night ten minutes from time.

The results: LaLiga: Sevilla 1 (Romero 15) lost to Atletico Madrid 0; Barcelona 3 (Yamal 14, 81, Lewandowski 63) drew with Granada 3 (Sanchez 43, Pellistri 60, Miquel 66).

Serie A: Genoa 1 (Malinovskyi 51) lost to Atalanta 4 (De Ketelaere 22, Koopmeiners 55, Zappacosta 90+10, Toure 90+13); AC Milan 1 (Hernandez 25) bt Napoli 0.